E. FAYE BUTLER in

GYPSY

A MUSICAL FABLE

Book by ARTHUR LAURENTS
Music by JULE STYNE
Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Suggested by Memoirs of GYPSY ROSE LEE

Original Production by DAVID MERRICK & LELAND HAYWARD

Entire Production Originally Directed and Choreographed by JEROME ROBBINS

Choreography/Associate Direction by CHRIS CARTER
Music Direction by DAVID FIORELLO

Direction by MICHAEL WEBER

Scenic Design ........................................................... JEFFREY D. KMIEC
Costume Design ............................................................ BILL MOREY
Lighting Design ............................................................ DENISE KARCZEWSKI
Sound Design .............................................................. ROBERT HORNBOSTEL
Properties Design .......................................................... ANDREW ASHLEY HATCHER and JENNIFER WENAU
Technical Director .......................................................... BEK LAMBRECHT
Production Stage Management .............................................. SEAN McSTRAVICK
Production Management .................................................. AARON SHAPIRO and CODY WESTGAARD

Ms. Butler’s performance is sponsored by Michael and Mona Heath

Production support provided by Katherine Harris/Harris Family Foundation

Porchlight Music Theatre acknowledges the generosity of the Bayless Family Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Illinois Arts Council Agency; DCASE Chicago; MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at Prince, James P. and Brenda S. Grusecki Family Foundation. Porchlight Music Theatre gratefully recognizes all its donors for making this production of GYPSY possible.

Special thanks to Mike Vasquez and Workshop 4200

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Uncle Jocko .............................................................. LARRY BALDACCI
Georgie ................................................................. JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT
Clarence ................................................................. WILLIAM “PIERCE” CLEAVELAND
Arnold ................................................................. DESMOND MURPHY
Baby Renee ............................................................ SANIYAH AS-SALAAM
Balloon Girl ............................................................. HANNAH LOVE JONES
Baby Louise ............................................................ JILLIAN-GISELLE
Baby June .............................................................. IZZIE ROSE
Rose ................................................................. E. FAYE BUTLER*
Pop ................................................................. J. MICHAEL JONES
Newsboys ........................................................... WILLIAM “PIERCE” CLEAVELAND, HANNAH LOVE JONES,
                                                DESMOND MURPHY and SANIYAH AS-SALAAM
Mr. Weber ............................................................ LARRY BALDACCI
Herbie ................................................................. JOSÉ ANTONIO GARCÍA*
Louise ................................................................. DARYN WHITNEY HARRELL*
June ................................................................. AALON SMITH
Tulsa ................................................................. MARCO TZUNUX
Yonkers .............................................................. MARVIN J. MALONE II
Angie ............................................................... JOSHUA BISHOP
L.A. ................................................................. JEFF PIERPOINT
Mr. Kringelein .................................................... JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT
Mr. Goldstone ...................................................... LARRY BALDACCI
Miss Cratchitt ...................................................... HONEY WEST
Agnes ............................................................ ELYA FAYE BOTTIGER
Marjorie May ....................................................... TATIANA BUSTAMANTE
Dolores ............................................................. MICHELLE HUEY
Edna Mae ........................................................... ARIEL TRIUNFO
Gail ................................................................. RENELLÈ NICOLE
Pastey ............................................................ LARRY BALDACCI
Tessie Tura ........................................................ MELISSA YOUNG
Mazeppa ........................................................... DAWN BLESS*
Cigar .............................................................. J. MICHAEL JONES
Electra ............................................................ HONEY WEST
Showgirls ...................................................... ELYA FAYE BOTTIGER, TATIANA BUSTAMANTE,
                                                MICHELLE HUEY and ARIEL TRIUNFO
Renée ............................................................. RENELLÈ NICOLE
Phil ................................................................. JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT
Bougeron-Cochon .............................................. JOSHUA BISHOP
Ensemble ...................................................... LARRY BALDACCI, JOSHUA BISHOP, ELYA FAYE BOTTIGER,
                                                TATIANA BUSTAMANTE, JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT,
                                                MICHELLE HUEY, J. MICHAEL JONES, MARVIN J. MALONE II,
                                                RENELLÈ NICOLE, JEFF PIERPOINT and ARIEL TRIUNFO
Chowsie ........................................................... CHEDDAH-BAE BOSEMAN (MALTESE)
                                                and DEENA BOSEMAN (POO-CHON)
Understudy performances will occur only with an announcement to the audience prior to the show.

Uncle Jocko/Mr. Weber: JOSHUA BISHOP; Georgie/Pastey: MARCO TZUNUX; Baby Louise/Hollywood Blonde: SANIYAH AS-SALAAM; Baby June: HANNAH LOVE JONES; Rose: DAWN BLESS; Pop/Herbie: JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT; Louise: RENELLÈ NICOLE; June/Balloon Girl: TATIANA BUSTAMANTE; Tulsa/Bougeron-Cochon: JEFF PIERPOINT; Angie/Yonkers/IA: WILLIAM “PIERCE” CLEAVERLAND; Mr. Goldstone: J. MICHAEL JONES; Miss Cratchitt: MELISSA YOUNG; Agnes/Renée: ARIEL TRIUNFO; Tessie Tura: MICHELLE HUEY; Mazeppa/Electra: ELYA FAYE BOTTIGER; Cigar/Phil: MARVIN J. MALONE II

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Bass .................................................................................................................. JACKSON KIDDER
Drums .................................................................................................................. CHRISTIAN MORENO
Trombone ........................................................................................................... MATT KOWALSKI
Reed 2 .................................................................................................................. LARA REGAN
Reed 1 .................................................................................................................... ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
Trumpet ............................................................................................................... GREG STRAUSS

*Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in America
^Denotes members of the United Scenic Artists IATSE, the Union and Professional Association of Designers, Artists, and Craftspeople
+Denotes Porchlight Music Theatre Artistic Associate

The “best damn musical I’ve seen in years,” proclaimed Brooks Atkinson of the New York Times in May of 1959 when Gypsy first appeared in front of audiences and, without surprise, it continues to be one of the best damn musical plays, full stop. Interestingly the word «damn» is one that would have been forbidden both backstage and on in the environment of American vaudeville where Gypsy, both the show and the woman, live. Inspired by the fanciful memoirs of one of showbiz’s most unique personalities, the autobiographical story of the most commercially successful ecdysiast of the mid-twentieth century delivered one accomplishment that a central character in the book never achieved on her own—it made Rose Hovick, the mother of both author Gypsy Rose Lee and her sister June Havoc, a star in her own right and forged the fearsome and determined personage of the “Stage Mother” to a degree that many people immediately know whom and what is meant should one mention “Mama Rose.” (This name is a misnomer as at no point in the play is the character referred to as “Mama Rose”—only as “Madame Rose,” “Rose” or “Mama.”)

The characters of Gypsy all struggle in the navigation of their dreams of stardom, or lack thereof, as they straddle the world of big-time, family-oriented vaudeville while the forbidden, and inevitable, industry of adult-themed burlesque presents itself as a final life raft in the ever-sinking wreckage of live entertainment options struggling for survival during the burgeoning days of the talkies and network radio. While the milieu is the gaudy world of animal acts and strippers, the heart of the play is a family trying to forge itself, mother, half-sisters and step father, in the face of the potentially insurmountable
DRAMATURGY NOTE

From the 1880s through the early 1930s, “the vaudeville circuit” offered diverse acts performing across the U.S., from the heart of huge cities to converted storefronts in tiny towns. During the 1880s alone, 5.5 million immigrants made their way to this country hoping for freedom and prosperity. Instead they found dull or deadly jobs with no opportunity for social or economic advancement. Everywhere, at least, except in vaudeville.

Vaudeville was a place where anyone could make it, regardless of background, gender, national origin, appearance, or even, to some degree, race. All that mattered was the act - anything from scenes, to music, comedy, acrobatics, or animal wrangling could get you on a vaudeville stage. However, for every Eva Tanguay, Ming and Toy, Moms Mabley, or W.C. Fields that found fame and fortune in vaudeville, thousands never succeeded with their act. And thousands more watched theirs crumble in the face of life's obstacles.

African Americans performers faced greater difficulties than most. Unable to perform everywhere in segregated 20th century society, many found a home on relatively safe circuits – like Chitlin and TOBA (Theatre Owners Booking Association) – but never made it on the mainstream stages. Despite the barriers, some did achieve conventional success. Performers like the Nicholas Brothers, Ethel Waters, Bobby Short, and, especially the phenomenal artist, Bert Williams. They didn't find discrimination and prejudice wiped away, however. In fact, in this art form cultural stereotypes were often embraced and even exaggerated.

Some performers, like Ming and Toy, challenged their stereotypes by reclaiming them and making them funny. Others, like the comedy team Weber and Fields, adopted other cultural stereotypes – performing in blackface, as Irishmen, and becoming America's best known Germans – but never taking on the stereotypes of their Jewish heritage. Through these performances, audiences were often exposed for the first time to the diverse cultures of people living right down the street. Though they were crude and stereotypical depictions, they still broadened audiences' understanding of their increasingly diverse world.

With the advent of network radio and sound film, audiences moved away from live vaudeville. And performers were forced to follow. These new mediums offered higher pay and national exposure but had one significant drawback. Once an act was distributed around the country to a mass audience it was no longer unique and appealing. Artists who had invested their hearts and souls (and life savings) found they could perform for years, even decades, and then no longer be marketable. Most acts failed in their efforts to develop something new.

Frequently, the only choice that remained for these vaudeville performers was burlesque, considered something of a step down, and, often, a last stop. It was hard to become a mainstream success once acknowledged as a burlesque performer. Some, like Bud
Abbott and Lou Costello, Phil Silvers, Fannie Brice, and Bert Lahr managed by keeping their acts clean. Gypsy Rose Lee achieved success by ensuring her act was as much about her mind as her body. “Gypsy” was her character, a construct within a scene. Offstage, she was remembered as funny, personable and intelligent. Onstage, she was an enticing comic, and taking off her clothes was simply part of the act.

**TIME AND PLACE**

This musical covers a period from the early 1920s to the early 1930s, and takes place in various cities throughout the United States.

**MUSICAL SYNOPSIS**

**ACT I**

“May We Entertain You” ................................................................. Baby June, Baby Louise

“Some People” ................................................................................. Rose

“Small World” ................................................................................. Rose, Herbie

“Baby June and Her Newsboys” ............................................. Baby June, Baby Louise, Newsboys

“Mr. Goldstone, I Love You” ....................................................... Rose, Ensemble

“Little Lamb” ......................................................................................... Louise

“You’ll Never Get Away From Me” .............................................. Rose, Herbie

“Dainty June and Her Farmboys” ............................................. June, Louise, Farmboys

“If Momma Was Married” ............................................................. Louise, June

“All I Need Is the Girl” ................................................................. Tulsa, Louise

“Everything’s Coming Up Roses” ................................................ Rose

**ACT II**

“Madame Rose’s Toreadorables” ................................................... Louise, Toreadorables

“Together, Wherever We Go” ......................................................... Rose, Louise, Herbie

“You Gotta Get a Gimmick” ............................................................ Tessie, Mazeppa, Electra

“Small World” (Reprise) ................................................................. Rose

“Let Me Entertain You” ................................................................. Louise, Ensemble

“Rose’s Turn” ......................................................................................... Rose

**GYPSY, A MUSICAL FABLE**

is presented with one fifteen-minute intermission

Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to be a member of the vibrant Ruth Page Center for the Arts performing arts community, and an Artist In-Residence. An incubator of artistic energy and excellence, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts carries forward the vision and mission of its founder, legendary dance icon Ruth Page, to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

E. FAYE BUTLER

DARYN WHITNEY HARRELL

JOSÉ ANTONIO GARCÍA

AALON SMITH

DAWN BLESS

MARCO TZUNUX

HONEY WEST

MELISSA YOUNG

JILLIAN-GISELLE

IZZIE ROSE
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

SANIYAH AS-SALAAM  
LARRY BALDACCI  
JOSHUA BISHOP  
ELYA FAYE BOTTIGER

TATIANA BUSTAMANTE  
WILLIAM “PIERCE” CLEAVELAND  
JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT  
MICHELLE HUEY

HANNAH LOVE JONES  
J. MICHAEL JONES  
MARVIN J. MALONE II  
DESMOND MURPHY

RENNELLÉ NICOLE  
JEFF PIERPOINT  
ARIEL TRIUNFO
BIOGRAPHIES

SANIYAH AS-SALAAM (Baby Renee / Newsboy) is extremely excited to join the cast of *Gypsy* in her debut acting performance. Saniyah is an 11-year-old native Chicagoan who attends Medgar Evers Fine & Performing Arts School. She is in the sixth grade, an honor roll student, and her favorite subjects are English and music. Saniyah has been a part of Maywood Fine Arts Associations: Stairway of the Stars Dance Studio for six years, performing each year in multiple dance productions; most recent productions include *In It to Win It*, *Swan Lake* and *Santa’s Christmas Bake Off*. She joined the B.FLI Productions Performing Arts Camp six-week summer intensive program this year at the ETA Creative Arts Theater, where she performed in *From One to All: There’s Power in Numbers*. Saniyah also enjoys singing, tumbling, swimming and writing poetry.

LARRY BALDACCI (Uncle Jocko / Mr. Weber / Mr. Goldstone / Pastey) is thrilled to be back working with Porchlight Music Theatre where he was last seen in *Merrily We Roll Along* and *A Catered Affair*. He has also appeared in *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma*, *42nd Street* and *The Music Man* (Paramount Theatre); *West Side Story* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); *Ragtime* (Non-Equity Jeff Award for Best Ensemble and Best Musical), *Spring Awakening* and *Company* (Griffin Theatre); *1776* (Signal Theatre); and *The Crucible* (Steppenwolf for Young Adults); among many others. As always, this is for Ray.

JOSHUA BISHOP (Angie / Bougeron-Cochon) is excited to be making his Chicago debut! His Wisconsin credits include “Jack” in *Into the Woods* (Hysterical Productions), “Ren McCormack” in *Footloose* (Riverside Players), and “Warner Huntington III” in *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Riverside Players). Proud graduate of AMDA NYC.

DAWN BLESS* (Mazeppa) is excited to be part of her third production with Porchlight Music Theater. She is a Jeff-nominated actress, and has recently appeared in *The Black Clown* at the American Repertory Theater of Harvard University. Other theatre credits include: The Second City, Congo Square Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Theo Unique, Music Theater Works, West Virginia Public Theatre, and others. In addition to being an actor and singer, Dawn is also a teaching artist, poet, director and playwright. Later this season, Dawn looks forward to continuing her writing for an upcoming Jazz musical special with The Second City. She is also a member of the comedy duo TOP HEAVY, as well as a founding member of the vocal jazz quartet, The Bronzeville Express.


TATIANA BUSTAMANTE (Marjorie May) is pumped to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut in *Gypsy*! Tatiana is originally from Miami, Florida and recently received her BFA in Musical Theatre from the Chicago College of Performing Arts. Tatiana is very proud of her Mexican/Peruvian heritage and is actively working
to improve Latinx representation in the arts. She sends her love and gratitude to the family, friends and teachers who support and inspire her work. Allons-y!

**E. FAYE BUTLER*** *(Rose)* has performed as an actress-singer for more than 35 years. Most importantly, she is an entertainer with an extraordinary gift to capture an audience and put them in the palm of her hands. Butler performs in concert halls, club venues, corporate events, cabarets and theatres across the country and internationally and continues to create and develop new and captivating shows. In her theatre career, Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, Victory Gardens, Northlight Theatre, Court Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Steppenwolf Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Signature Theatre, Centerstage, Chicago Shakespeare, Congo Square, Marriott’s Lincolnshire Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Fulton Theatre, Maine State, Sacramento Music Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre and PaperMill Playhouse are among the theatres where Butler has performed. She has also performed in the Off Broadway national and regional tours of *Mamma Mia*, *Ain’t Misbehavin’, Dinah Was, Nunsense* and *Nunsense II*. She is the recipient of six Joseph Jefferson Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, R.A.M.I. Award, John Barrymore Award, Ovation Award, Sarah Siddons Leading Lady Award, After Dark Award, Excellence in the Arts, four Black Theatre Alliance Awards, Black Alliance Award, Lunt-Fontaine Fellowship, Kathyn V. Lampkey Award, and has been inducted into the Women in the Arts Museum in Washington, D.C. She is the recipient of six Joseph Jefferson Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, R.A.M.I. Award, John Barrymore Award, Ovation Award, Sarah Siddons Leading Lady Award, After Dark Award, Excellence in the Arts, four Black Theatre Alliance Awards, Black Alliance Award, Lunt-Fontaine Fellowship, Kathyn V. Lampkey Award, and has been inducted into the Women in the Arts Museum in Washington, D.C. She is the recipient of six Joseph Jefferson Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, R.A.M.I. Award, John Barrymore Award, Ovation Award, Sarah Siddons Leading Lady Award, After Dark Award, Excellence in the Arts, four Black Theatre Alliance Awards, Black Alliance Award, Lunt-Fontaine Fellowship, Kathyn V. Lampkey Award, and has been inducted into the Women in the Arts Museum in Washington, D.C.

**WILLIAM “PIERCE” CLEAVELAND** *(Clarence / Newsboy)* is thrilled to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Most recently Pierce played “Ben/Lisa” in Chicago Theatre Workshop’s *Disaster*. This spring he appeared in season six of *MasterChef Jr.* on Fox. He has also performed nationally with the award-winning Bravo! and Ovation Performing Arts Academies in Oak Park. Pierce wants to thank his family for their support and give a big shout out to Emi, Katie and Ragan for all their encouragement.

**JOSÉ ANTONIO GARCÍA*** *(Herbie)* is thrilled to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut with *Gypsy*. Tony (preferred name to go by!) has had the honor of working with some of the best theaters in and around Chicago, including Chicago Dramatists, Shakespeare Project of Chicago, Windy City Playhouse, The Goodman Theatre, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Steep Theatre, Factory Theatre, Stage Left Theatre, BoHo Theatre Ensemble, Adventure Stage Chicago, Collaboration, Chicago Children’s Theatre, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. TV/Film credits include: *The Chi, Chicago Med, Chicago PD, Empire, Win It All, Captive State, Pages, Working Man, Animator, Shameless, Written Off, Easy, Sense8, Cleveland Abduction, Consumed, Chicago Fire, Mob Doctor, Boss, and Prison Break*. He holds a BFA from The University of Connecticut and an MFA from Indiana University. He is represented by Stewart Talent.

**JILLIAN-GISELLE** *(Baby Louise)* is a 10-year-old from Chicago currently represented by Paonessa Talent. She is very excited to make her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Her favorite credits include “Young TiMoune” in *Once On This Island* (Columbia College Chicago), “Young Kangaroo” in *Seussical the Musical* (Beverly Theatre Guild), and “Scuttle” in *The Little Mermaid* (The Drama Group). When not on stage she can be found on YouTube and Instagram @JiGiFabulous.
JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT (Georgie / Mr. Kringelein / Phil) is a Chicago entertainer and 2013 graduate of Columbia College Chicago. Originally from Rochester, New York, Grant moved to Chicago 10 years ago. Grant is returning to Porchlight Music Theatre where he has been seen in Memphis, The Scottsboro Boys and Dreamgirls. Some other credits include: Christmas in Chicago: A Musical Revue (Fine Print Theatre), Jesus Christ Super Star (Paramount Theatre), Our Town (Redtwist Theatre), Nine Lives the Musical (Chicago Musical Theatre Festival), and Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play (Theatre Wit). Grant was a company member with Childs Play Touring Theatre. He thanks his family, select friends, and the beautiful people of Wakanda (You know who you are!). #WakandaForever

DARYN WHITNEY HARRELL* (Louise) is honored to be playing such an iconic role in her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Regional credits: Queenie Pie (Chicago Opera Theater), Aida (Bailiwick Chicago), and “Lorraine” in All Shook Up (Fireside Theatre). National Tour credits: The Book of Mormon and “Jovie” in Elf. TV credits: Empire. Featured vocalist: Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. She received her BA from North Central College. Many thanks to God, family, and friends for their constant love and support, and to Gypsy casting for this great opportunity! Represented by Paonessa Talent. @DarynWHarrell

MICHELLE HUEY (Dolores / Showgirl) is so excited to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Previous credits include: “Audrey” in Little Shop of Horrors (Columbia College Chicago), “Margot” in Legally Blonde (Montgomery County Dinner Theater), and “Cheryl Ann/Ensemble” in Catch Me If You Can (Montgomery County Dinner Theater). Endless thanks to family and friends for their support and to Porchlight for this opportunity! www.michelle-huey.com

HANNAH LOVE JONES (Balloon Girl / Newsboy) is thrilled to join the Porchlight Music Theatre family in Gypsy. Other Chicago credits include Norma (Lyric Opera Of Chicago). Commercial credits include: Chrysler, among others; and print work includes companies such as American Girl, Huggies and Lunchables. Hannah is a Spanish immersion elementary school student who (in addition to performing) loves swimming and sailing, her pet stuffed dog Lexi, and making slime! Hannah is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.

J. MICHAEL JONES (Pop / Cigar) is thrilled to return to Porchlight Music Theatre in the musical Gypsy after a very successful run of Dreamgirls. He has performed in such productions as The Wiz, Bingo Long and His Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings, Porgy and Bess (Ravinia-Conducted by Bobby McFarren), and Fences to name a few. Thanks so much much for the opportunity to continue my craft.

MARVIN J. MALONE II (Yonkers) is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and is excited to be working again with Porchlight Music Theatre and this amazing cast and crew. His other Chicago credits include “male ensemble swing” in Memphis (Porchlight) and “ensemble, u/s Jimmy The Goat” in Something in the Game (American Music Theatre Project). He is currently a senior Music Theatre, BFA student at Columbia College Chicago. Follow Marvin @ marvinmaloneii or at MarvinMalone.com. Jeremiah 29:11.

DESMOND MURPHY (Arnold / Newsboy) is new to the theatre and so happy to be making his debut with Porchlight Music Theatre. In addition to performing with the School of Rock on guitar in shows at Wire in Berwyn, he also enjoys playing piano, singing and being a part of the backstage crew for Bravo Performing Arts in Oak Park. Desmond thanks his family and Shirley Hamilton Talent for all their support!
RENNÈ NICOLE (Gail / Renée / Showgirl) is delighted to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Some of her most recent theatre credits include A New Attitude: In Tribute to Patti LaBelle (Black Ensemble Theatre), Jesus Christ Superstar - Soul Girl (Paramount Theatre), and Last Dancer Standing (Black Ensemble Theater). She began her professional acting career at five years old, later starring in her first musical production at American Girls Theatre as “Addy”. TV credits include a recurring role on Empire (Fox), Chicago Fire (NBC), and First Dates (NBC). She proudly received her BA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She would like to thank Gray Talent, her friends and family for their love & support, and the #VBs. All glory to God! Stay connected @ renellenicole.

JEFF PIERPOINT (L.A.) is delighted to be her part of Porchlight Music Theatre’s Gypsy, after appearing last season in New Faces Sing Broadway 1959. His Chicago credits include Newsies, She Loves Me, and How to Succeed... (Marriott Theatre), Grand Hotel, and Bonnie and Clyde (Kokandy Productions). Other favorite credits include “Greg Madison” in It Shoulda Been You (Actor’s Theatre of Indiana) and “Frankie” in Forever Plaid (Tent Theatre). Jeff is a proud graduate of Ball State University. He would like to thank everyone at Porchlight for this wonderful opportunity, the awesome team at Gray Talent Group, and his family and friends for their constant love and support.

IZZIE ROSE (Baby June) is an up-and-coming actress who is taking part in her first performance with Porchlight Music Theatre. Previous credits include “Ariel” in Chicago Style Nutcracker (Harold Washington Cultural Center) and “Oompa Loompa” in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (Mother McCauley Theater Curtain Call). Izzie was also recently seen in film and television as “Brianna” in the film Disconnection Notice and in season five, episode one of Chicago PD. When not on stage, Izzie can be found on Instagram @ izzierose919. Izzie is represented by Hayes Talent Agency.

AALON SMITH (June) is delighted to be a part of her third production with Porchlight Music Theatre, following her performances in last season’s Memphis and New Faces Sing Broadway 1975. Aalon is originally from Denver, Colorado and is currently a junior BFA Musical Theatre Performance major at Columbia College Chicago. She has performed regionally as “Tribe” in Hair (Metropolis Performing Arts Center) and some of her favorite Columbia College Chicago productions include “Helene” in Sweet Charity, “Dotty” in Caroline, or Change, “Chiffon” in Little Shop of Horrors, and “Andrea” in Once On This Island.

ARIEL TRIUNFO (Edna Mae / Showgirl / Dance Captain) is a junior Musical Theatre student at Columbia College Chicago. She most recently performed as “Sacred Spirit, Honeybee” in Stranger on the River (Bittersweet Arts Company), and as “Elaine, Frug Girl” in Sweet Charity (Columbia College Chicago). Prior to pursuing theatre, Ariel danced professionally in Las Vegas with Nevada Ballet Theatre, and performed in many well-known ballets, in addition to choreographing her own new works. This past summer, Ariel received the 2018 Lorna Strassler Award for Student Excellence while attending the Musical Theatre Dance Program at The School at Jacob’s Pillow. She is thrilled to be performing in her first production with Porchlight Music Theatre.

MARCO TZUNUX (Tulsa) hails from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and is an alum of the Chicago College of Performing Arts. This is his second collaboration with Porchlight Music Theatre, following his appearance in New Faces Sing Broadway 1975 this past June. Chicago credits: Seussical (Drury Lane Oakbrook), TRU (the Chicago Musical
HONEY WEST (Electra / Miss Cratchitt) was most recently seen in As You Like it as a transgender version of “Duke Senior”. Honey West is a graduate of Indiana University with a degree in musical theater. Most recently she appeared in Priscilla Queen of the Desert where she received a Jeff Nomination for best supporting actress and won a best actress award from Broadwayworld.com. She also starred in such notable productions as Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid, Vampire Lesbians of Sodom, Diva Diaries, Jerry’s Girls, Pussy on the House (Best Actress Award from Broadwayworld.com), Sexy Baby, and Tony ‘n’ Tony’s Wedding. She has been performing her own cabaret show for the last 30 years. She is very proud to be a 2012 inductee into the “Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame”. Currently she is working on a new cabaret act, as well as an autobiographical one-woman show. Learn more at facebook.com/honeywest and youtube.com/honeywestchicago.


MICHAEL WEBER (Director) most recently directed Merrily We Roll Along for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of Woman of the Year and co-starred in Porchlight Revisits Do Re Mi. His productions of End of the Rainbow, Side Show, Forum, 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 others, 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 twelve 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 Theater, Angel Street at First Folio Shakespeare, and The Gifts of the Magi at Indiana Repertory. He 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.
DAVID FIORELLO (Music Director) returns to Porchlight Music Theatre where he most recently music directed Do Re Mi, Woman of the Year, Chicago Sings: Sinatra & The Rat Pack, and the last two New Faces Sing Broadway seasons. He was also seen on stage as “Joe Josephson” in Merrily We Roll Along. David has served as music director for the Off-Broadway hit Danny & Sylvia: The Danny Kaye Musical, and toured as music director with many productions, including John Doyle’s production of Sweeney Todd. He has also written and collaborated on several original pieces including The Language or the Kiss, featuring the music of The Indigo Girls, that he conceived, wrote the book, and starred in for multiple Off-Broadway industry readings. Fiorello has worked in Chicago with Chicago Shakespeare, Marriott, Steppenwolf, and many others. He’s excited to music direct another round of New Faces Sing Broadway this season. Visit www.fiorellostudios.com.

CHRIS CARTER (Choreographer / Associate Director) is a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a liberal arts degree in dance. Carter has traveled all over performing, directing and choreographing. Some of his credits include: Memphis (Jeff nomination), Porchlight Revisits They’re Playing Our Song, Dreamgirls and In The Heights (Porchlight Music Theatre), Five Guys Name Moe (Court Theater-Jeff nomination), Hair (Mercury Theater), The Legend Of Georgia McBride (Northlight Theater), Sweeney Todd (Grand Valley State University), Oklahoma (Lyric Opera Chicago), Show Boat (San Francisco and Houston Grand Opera), Hairspray (Drury Lane Oakbrook), Joseph . . . (Paramount Theatre), Duke Ellington’s Queenie Pie (Chicago Opera Theater), Oliver (Light Opera Works), The Wiz (Theatre at the Center), Smokey Joe’s Café (Circle Theatre), and The Wild Party (Actor’s Theater). Carter has been the choreographer/Director for the Grand Rapids Civic’s SRT for the past five years. Carter is a former Debbie Allen Dance Academy scholarship student. Other credits include national tours, commercial, industrial and concert work.

JEFFREY D. KMIEC (Scenic Designer) is an award-winning Chicago-based scenic designer. His designs have been seen previously at Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, American Players Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Raven Theatre, The Artistic Home, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Heritage Theatre Festival and The Children’s Theatre of Charlotte. He received three consecutive Equity Jeff Awards for his designs on The Little Mermaid (Paramount Theatre-2017), Deathtrap (Drury Lane Theatre-2016), and Les Misérables (Paramount Theatre-Co-Design with Kevin Depinet in 2015). Jeffrey received his MFA from the University of Virginia and is a member of USA 829.

BILL MOREY (Costume Designer) is an artistic associate at Porchlight Music Theatre where he has designed two dozen productions. He is a 15-time Jeff Award-nominee, and has received the Jeff Award for Nine, The King and I, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and Dreamgirls all at Porchlight. Proud member of USA 829. www.billmorey.com.

DENISE KARCZEWSKI (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to return to Porchlight Music Theatre after designing Memphis, Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot the Musical, In The Heights and Dreamgirls. Denise is the resident lighting designer at Black Ensemble Theater 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 for the opportunity and Daryl for all his love and support. Maya, mommy loves you!

ROBERT HONGBOSTEL (Sound Designer) is excited to be back for his fourth season with Porchlight Music Theatre and this amazing team! Recent Porchlight credits include Memphis, Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot the Musical, In The Heights, Dreamgirls, End of the Rainbow, Far From Heaven, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Side Show, and 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 Theatre, Eclectic Theatre, 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. Enjoy the show!

JENNIFER WERNAU (Co-Properties Designer) is a recent graduate from DePaul University and is freelancing here in Chicago as a properties designer. Select shows she has worked on include The Shipment (Red Tape Theatre) and Richard III (DePaul Theatre School). Shows coming up this fall include Darkness After Dawn (The Factory Theatre), HOODED, or being black for dummies (First Floor Theater), and A Christmas Carol (Metropolis Theatre Company). Keep a look out for more.

AARON SHAPIRO (Co-Production Manager) has worked throughout Chicago as a freelance production manager. For Porchlight, where he is an artistic associate, he has production managed Memphis, In The Heights, Dreamgirls, Far From Heaven, Sweeney Todd, Funny Thing Happened…, Side Show, and Jeff Award winning productions of Ain’t MisBehavin’ and Sondheim on Sondheim. Other credits include: Hand to God and Fun Home (Victory Gardens); DISENCHANTED and UNSPEAKABLE (Broadway Playhouse); commercial productions of Splintered Soul and Twisted Knots (Chicago Commercial Collective); Jeff Award-nominated productions of Heathers and Tomorrow Morning (Kokandy Productions); Jeff Award-nominated productions of The Rainmaker and Buddy - The Buddy Holly Musical (American Blues Theatre); and Stupid Fucking Bird and Caught (Sideshow Theatre). Aaron was the founding Artistic Director for Oracle where he served for four years. He is also the co-founder of Studio BE/MCL Chicago in Lakeview where served as Executive Director for five years. Aaron has worked for over 100 different theatre and production companies, and educational institutions as an electrician, carpenter, sound engineer, designer, tech director, director, production manager and producer.

CODY WESTGAARD (Co-Production Manager) is thrilled to join Porchlight Music Theatre for this season. He is the production manager at Peninsula Players Theatre and has worked as assistant stage manager for 42nd Street, White Christmas, Saturday Night Fever and Hazel (Drury Lane Theatre), Mamma Mia! (Paramount Theater), and The Joseph Jefferson Awards (2006-2017). Other credits include assistant production manager (APM) at NYU Tisch School of the Arts Department of Drama (2011-2015), APM at Williamstown Theatre Festival (2009-2011), PM at Noble Fool Theatricals (2007-2008). Cody also works for MACE (Movement and Combat Education) as the operations manager and co-created the stage management intensive. Cody earned a BA in Theatre at Loyola University Chicago and MFA in Production Technology and Management.
at Carnegie Mellon University. He is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.

SEAN McSTRAVICK* (Stage Manager) is delighted to return to Porchlight Music Theatre after stage managing last season’s production of *Billy Elliot the Musical*. They have been a member of the stage management team on over a hundred productions at companies including: Music Theater Works, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company (four years as PSM), the Reduced Shakespeare Company, North Coast Repertory Theatre, R.H. Orman Inc., 42nd Street Moon, and the Willows Theatre Company. Sean is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.

ANDREW ASHLEY HATCHER* (Assistant Stage Manager / Co-Properties Designer) is an Austin, Texas transplant stage manager, props designer and general theater-maker. He is happy to return to Porchlight Music Theatre where he previously worked on *Memphis* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Other Chicago credits include *Frost/Nixon* (Redtwist Theatre) and *Becky Shaw* (Windy City Playhouse). Austin-area credits include numerous award-winning shows with Salvage Vanguard Theater (where he remains a company member), Austin Playhouse, Breaking String Theater, Doctuh Mistuh Productions, Fusebox Festival, Mary Moody Northen Theatre, TexArts, Texas Performing Arts, Trouble Puppet Theater, and Zilker Theatre Productions.

SHANNON DESMOND (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back at Porchlight Music Theatre where she was part of the team for last season’s *Billy Elliot the Musical, Memphis* and *New Faces Sing Broadway 1975*. Other credits include *Resolution* (Pride Films and Plays), *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue, Charles Ives Take Me Home* (Curious Theatre Company), *How the World Began* (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.

MATT NADLER (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to return to Porchlight Music Theatre where he has previously worked on *Side Show, Dreamgirls, In The Heights, The Scottsboro Boys, Marry Me A Little, Billy Elliot the Musical, Merrily We Roll Along* and *Memphis*. He received his BFA in Stage Management from Emerson College. Thank you to his family for always supporting him in his passion.

JEANNIE LUKOW (Executive Director) is a founding member of Porchlight Music Theatre’s board of directors serving on the board for 19 years, six of them 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 a graduate of Michigan State University.
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For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight, please contact Lisa Torgerson, Director of Development, at lisa@porchlightmusictheatre.org or call 773.777.9884. We endeavor to make this listing as accurate as possible. Should you detect an error, please contact Rosie Schultz, Development Associate, at rosie@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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