FIREBRAND THEATRE

Presents

Always...Patsy Cline

Created and originally directed by Ted Swindley – based on a true story.

Directed by Brigitte Ditmars
Musical Direction by Andra Velis Simon

Michael and Mona Heath of the HeathFund

ANY TAPING, FILMING, RECORDING OR BROADCAST OF THIS PLAY (MUSICAL OR OTHERWISE) IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

For licensing information on Always...Patsy Cline and all Ted Swindley shows, visit www.tedswindleyproductions.com or contact Joan Kovats, (203) 978-0102.

For merchandise, please visit www.alwayspatsycline.com
SONG TITLES

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HONKY TONK MERRY GO ROUND - Frank Simon/Stan Gardner
Acuff Rose Music, Inc.

SHE'S GOT YOU - Hank Cochran
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BLUE MOON OF KENTUCKY - Bill Monroe
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HOW GREAT THOU ART (Traditional)

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TRUE LOVE - Cole Porter
Warner Chappell

SWEET DREAMS - Don Gibson
Acuff Rose Music, Inc.

IF YOU'VE GOT LEAVIN’ ON YOUR MIND - Wayne Walker/Webb Pierce
Polygram International

BILL BAILEY (Traditional)

PERFORMERS

Harmony France (Patsy Cline/Louise Seger)+
Christina Hall (Patsy Cline/ Louise Seger)*

UNDERSTUDIES

Liz Chidester (Patsy Cline understudy)+
Gabriela Diaz (Louise Seger understudy)
THE BODACIOUS BOBCATS

Always...Patsy Cline

PRODUCTION & STAFF

Keyboard/Conductor ...................................................................................................................Andra Velis Simon+
Electric / Lap Steel Guitars...................................................................................... Steven Romero Schaeffer
Fiddle/ Acoustic Guitar...........................................................................................................Emma Sheikh
Drums .................................................................................................................................Tina Muñoz Pandya

Producing Artistic Director .............................................................................................Harmony France+
Executive Producer ..............................................................................................................Jon Martinez+
Production Manager ............................................................................................................Rose Hamill
Assistant Producer .............................................................................................................Lucy Walker
Assistant Production Manager ..........................................................................................Anika Jones
Direction ..............................................................................................................................Brigitte Ditmars
Music Direction ..................................................................................................................Andra Velis Simon+
Assistant Director ..............................................................................................................Lauren Griffith
Scenic Designer ...................................................................................................................Lauren Nichols
Assistant Scenic Designer ......................................................................................................Jessie Baldinger
Set Painter ...........................................................................................................................Ray Kelley
Technical Director ..............................................................................................................Abbie Reed
Master Carpenter ..............................................................................................................Tammer Boutros
Sound Designer ..................................................................................................................Giselle Castro+
Sound Engineer ....................................................................................................................Giselle Castro+
A2/Swing Sound Operator ...................................................................................................Nikolai Steir
Lighting Designer ..................................................................................................................Cat Wilson **
Assistant Lighting Designer ................................................................................................Adrienne Miikelle
Master Electrician ................................................................................................................Richie Vavrina
Costume Designer ................................................................................................................Steph Taylor
Wig Designer ........................................................................................................................Keith Ryan
Props Designer ......................................................................................................................Rachelle R. Kolecke
Electronic Music Designer ................................................................................................Ethan Deppe
Stage Manager ......................................................................................................................Jacqueline Widman+
Assistant Stage Manager .....................................................................................................Claire Haussner
Casting .................................................................................................................................Adelina Feldman-Schultz+
Social Media .......................................................................................................................Amanda Horvath-Adair+, Tyler Symone+
PR Agency ............................................................................................................................David Rosenberg Public Relations
Photo ...........................................................................................................................................Joe Maza, Brave Lux Photography

Author: Ted Swindley
Author’s Representative: Joan Kovats
Business Management: Melanie Clark
Original Music Director: Vicki Masters
Band and Vocal Orchestrations: August Eriksmoen, Tony Migliore
Legal Counsel: Clair G. Burrill, Richard Garmise, Sawnie R. Aldredge

ORIGINAL CAST ALBUM AVAILABLE ON MCA.

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage Managers.
** Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, a labor union and professional association of Designers, Artists and Craftspeople.
+ Company member of Firebrand Theatre
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

HARMONY FRANCE (Patsy Cline/Louise Seger) is a co-founder and the artistic director of Firebrand Theatre, Chicago’s own feminist musical theatre company, where she has been the producing artistic director of LIZZIE, 9 To 5 The Musical, Caroline, Or Change (Jeff Award, Musical/Mid-Size), Queen of the Mist and now, Always… Patsy Cline. As an actor, Harmony has traveled the world with the Broadway National/International tour of Sister Act. She has been nominated for two Jeff Awards for Best actress and is the recipient of a BroadwayWorld Award for playing the title role in Violet at Bailiwick Chicago. Most recently she was the asst. director for David Cromer’s acclaimed production of Next To Normal at Writers Theatre. Additionally, Harmony has worked with TimeLine Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Peninsula Players, Theatre at the Center, American Theatre Company, Porchlight Music Theatre, Bohemian Theatre Ensemble, Windy City Playhouse, The New Colony, and Timberlake Playhouse where she played Patsy in Always… Patsy Cline. She studied opera at Brenau University, acting at Columbia College, and Shakespeare at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. In 2019, she was honored by NewCity Stage as one of the “Fifty People Who Really Perform for Chicago” and has been featured in Crain’s Chicago Social, and Playbill. You can see her next as Edith and Edie Beale in Theo Ubique’s production of Grey Gardens. Thanks to her family, Jon for taking the reins, and Eric and Max for the daily sanity. Instagram: @harmonyfrance

CHRISTINA HALL (Patsy Cline/Louise Seger) is thrilled to be making her Firebrand debut. Her recent credits include Gary Griffin's Into The Woods at Writers Theater and The Fly Honey Show X with the Inconvenience. Other Chicago credits include: Goodman Theatre (Mary Zimmerman's Wonderful Town, Feathers and Teeth, New Stage's Women Laughing Alone with Salad and Cressida on Top); Marriott Theatre Lincolnshire (Emma Goldman in Ragtime – 2018 Jeff Award Best Musical); Paramount Theatre (Ursula in The Little Mermaid); Chicago Shakespeare Theater (Peter Pan); Mercury Theatre (The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes); The Inconvenience (The Fly Honey Show IX, Woyzeck in Sarajevo). Milwaukee credits include Milwaukee Repertory Theatre (Always… Patsy Cline and Run Bambi Run Workshops); Skylight Music Theatre (Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd). She is a TimeOut Chicago Performer of the Week, Voiceover artist, and is represented by Gray Talent Group. Her upcoming projects include Roe at the Goodman Theatre this Winter, and Kinky Boots at the Paramount Theater in the Spring. This Summer she will be playing the role of a lifetime when she marries the love of her life, Diego.

LIZ CHIDESTER (Patsy Cline Understudy) is stoked to be understudying these powerhouses! Chicago theatre credits: LIZZIE and Queen of the Mist (Firebrand Theatre, Company Member), Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (American Blues Theatre) Sundown, Yellow Moon (Raven Theatre) High Fidelity (Refuge Theatre Project). Liz has worked with Chicago Children’s Theatre, Writers Theatre, Cabinet of Curiosity, Theatre at the Center, Mercury Theatre, Route 66, Porchlight Theatre, and Sideshow Theatre. She writes music with her band LIZ AND THE LOVELIES and is teaching artist at Old Town School of Folk Music. Liz is represented by Shirley Hamilton Inc. www.lizandthelovelies.com

GABRIELA DIAZ (Louise Seger Understudy) is absolutely thrilled to be a part of this production. Previous credits include: Bury Me (Dandelion Theatre) Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally (Bower Theatre); La Ruta (Steppenwolf u/s); The Escape (Art Institute of Chicago) The Wolf At The End of the Block (16th Street Theater); 50 Shades of Shakespeare (rediscover theatre); Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding (Chicago Theater Works); In The Heights (R-S Theatrics); Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Found At Sea (Shakespeare Festival St. Louis). Gabriela received a BFA in Acting from Webster Conservatory and is represented by Lily's Talent Agency.
GISELLE CASTRO (Sound Designer/ Sound Engineer) is grateful to be rejoining Firebrand on another season! Earning her AAS in Recording Arts from Tribeca Flashpoint, she is also a freelance engineer, composer and mixer. Previous design work: La Ofrenda (Adventure Stage), Hope (Vista), Hunchback of Notre Dame (MTW). Other works: Hello Again, Bridges of Madison County (Theo Ubique), Queen of the Mist, Caroline, or Change (Firebrand). Manda gracias a su familia, de sangre y de corazón. gisellechicago.com

BRIGITTE DITMARS (Director) is a Chicago based director/choreographer with over 25 years of experience in professional and educational theatre. She is pleased to return to Firebrand having served as Associate Director/Choreographer for Caroline, or Change. Professional credits include work with Birmingham Children's Theatre, Timber Lake Playhouse, Porchlight Music Theatre, American Theater Company, Mercury Theatre, Theater Wit, Emerald City Children's Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Circle Theatre, Signal Ensemble Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions, Strawdog Theatre, Metropolis Center for the Performing Arts, The Factory Theater and Northwestern University. She has received two Joseph Jefferson Awards for Achievement in Choreography, as well as three additional nominations.

LAUREN GRIFFITH (Assistant Director) earned a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance from Columbia College, where her choreography credits included Bridal Dance, Mary Stuart, and The Identical Same Temptation. Since graduating, she has choreographed Rudigore (The Savoyaires), Fiddler on the Roof (Wilmette Center for the Arts), Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer (Hell in a Handbag) and served as assistant choreographer for High Fidelity (Refuge Theatre Project) and Applause (Porchlight). This is her first production with Firebrand!

ROSE HAMILL (Production Manager) is a freelance stage and production manager who has worked with multiple Chicago storefront theatres. She has worked with The New Colony (PUNK), Babes with Blades Theatre Company (The Good Fight), The Factory Theater (The Adventures of Spirit Force Five) and Wildclaw Theatre (Hell Followed With Her) among others. Rose serves as the Managing Director of Broken Nose Theatre, where she has either stage or production managed their productions of At the Table, Kingdom, Plainclothes, Girl in the Red Corner, among others. This is her second show with Firebrand after this year’s Queen of the Mist, and she is excited to be back! Rose is a member of the United States Institute of Technical Theater and the Stage Managers’ Association. She holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Technical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago, with minors as a Teaching Artist and in Arts Administration.

ANIKA JONES (Assistant Production Manager), originally from Dallas, TX, moved to Chicago in 2015 for school. While there, she developed a love for theater and has worked on multiple productions such as Romeo and Juliet and Schoolhouse Rock Live! as assistant stage manager. After school, she remained in Chicago to continue working in the theatre community. Now she works in and around the city, on various production management teams.

RACHELLE “Rocky” KOLECKE (Props Designer) is delighted to work with Firebrand. More of her work can be seen currently in X-Mas Cuento Remix at 16th Street Theatre. Rocky has also designed props and puppetry with: J.P .A.C., Promethean, 20%, Black Button Eyes, Metropolis, The Raue, Victory Gardens, Chicago Shakespeare, and Glimmerglass Opera. Scenic designs with: Stagecoach and Chase Park. Rocky is also a stage manager and an educator in BN98. Instagram: @rockypropartisan

JON MARTINEZ (Producing Associate Artistic Director) having previously worked as movement director for LIZZIE, associate producer and providing additional choreography for Queen of the Mist, now serves as the executive producer on Always... Patsy Cline, his 3rd Firebrand Production. Directing/ Choreography credits include: Be More Chill (Playhouse Square Cleveland); Scottsboro Boys (Beck Center Cleveland); The Buddy Holly Story (American Blues); The View Upstairs (Circle); In The Heights (South Bend Civic); It’s Only a Play, Priscilla Queen of the Desert (Jeff award nomination) (Pride Films &
Plays); Rock of Ages (Timberlake Playhouse); Tonya & Nancy The Rock Opera (Chicago Premiere) (Underscore); 3C (Red Orchid); We’re Gonna Die (Haven/ Steppenwolf); directed the Theater On The Lake remount of Bailiwick Chicago’s Jeff award-winning production of Murder Ballad and served as assistant/associate on Xanadu (American Theater Company); Carrie, Murder Ballad (Bailiwick Chicago). Instagram: @Jonnytaco91

LAUREN M. NICHOLS (Set Designer) is a freelance designer/scenic artist native to Chicago who also works full time as a model maker and draftsperson. Past Firebrand designs include Queen of the Mist and Caroline, or Change. Other recent credits: P.Y.G or The Misedumacation of Dorian Belle (Jackalope), Mamma Mia! (Highland Park Players), American Idiot (Harper College), The Cat in the Hat (Northbrook), Big Fish (Boho), and Lyle Lyle Crocodile (Lifeline). Upcoming projects include assisting on projects at the Goodman, St. Louis Opera, and Julliard. MFA-Northwestern. Laurenangeldesigns.com

ABIGAIL REED (Technical Director) is a Technical Director and Scenic Designer in the Chicagoland Area. She is excited to return as Technical Director for Firebrand Theatre. Abigail attended Oberlin College (’15) with a degree in Visual Arts, concentration in Scenic Design and a Minor in Philosophy. Abigail is the Broadway Series Draftsperson for the Paramount 2019 season. Recent design credits include Oceanica (Mobile Room Escape) Supervillians (Mobile Room Escape) A New Brain (Theo Ubique) Altar Boyz (Theo Ubique) The Ben Hecht Show (Grippo Stage Co.) Pippin (Desert Foothills Theater, Arizona) Little Shop of Horrors (Desert Foothills Theater) and Home Before Dark (Ruckus Theater).

TED SWINDLEY (Author) is internationally known as writer and director of the popular musical, ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE. He is the founding artistic director of STAGES REP in Houston, Texas. He was also named to Esquire Magazine’s register of outstanding Americans in arts and letters. Mr. Swindley was the recipient of the Los Angeles Dramalogue award for outstanding direction of CARNAL KNOWLEDGE by Jules Feiffer. Currently, he is president of TED SWINDLEY PRODUCTIONS, INC., a theatrical licensing and consulting company, and continues his 30 year career writing plays and musicals, consulting and mentoring playwrights, as well as directing plays for various theatres throughout the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Swindley is an active member of THE DRAMATISTS GUILD OF AMERICA and STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS.

STEPH TAYLOR (Costume Designer) Steph is thrilled to be joining this powerful movement at Firebrand Theatre. She is a Chicago-based freelance costume designer. Credits include productions with Filament Theatre, Interrobang Theatre, Court Theatre, The Marriott Theatre, Northlight Theatre and The Goodman Theatre. Her most recent credits include: Luna at Filament Theatre and Out of Love with Interrobang Theatre Project. Steph would like to thank everyone at Firebrand for this inspiring opportunity and her family for their everlasting support.

ANDRA VELIS SIMON (Music Director) is the Resident Music Director for Firebrand, where she has music directed Caroline, or Change, 9 to 5 The Musical, and Firebrand’s inaugural production of LIZZIE. Andra has worked regionally at Actors Theatre of Louisville, A.R.T. in Cambridge, Berkeley Rep, Brooklyn Academy of Music, NYU’s Skirball Center, Olney Theatre Center in Maryland, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pasadena Playhouse, and others. In Chicago, her work has been seen at Steppenwolf, Goodman, Chicago Children’s Theatre, Theater Wit, The Hypocrites, and dozens of others. Most recently, she music directed Next to Normal at Writers Theatre and A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder at Porchlight Music Theatre. Andra is also adjunct faculty at Columbia College Chicago, where she has taught musical theatre performance since 2008. Special thanks as always to Jamie.

JACQUELINE WIDMAN (Stage Manager) Jacqueline is a Firebrand Company Member who has stage managed 9 to 5 The Musical, Caroline, or Change, Queen of the Mist, and now Always...Patsy Cline. She wants to thank her father for her love of theater, and Mary Beth. Mary Beth was her father’s 4th grade crush. Mary Beth auditioned for the summer show, so her father auditioned to spend the summer too. He got the lead in Tom Sawyer,
and his love a theater was born. That love of theater was passed on to Jacqueline who has made it her career. Thank you Dad for that love, and thank you Mom for the continued support in this life.

CAT WILSON (Lighting Design) Cat is thrilled to be back with Firebrand. Previously she designed *Caroline, or Change* and *Queen of the Mist*. She has designed around Chicago for companies such as Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Sideshow Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions, Emerald City Theatre, A&A Ballet, The Joffrey Academy, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and many others. She is now the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at Point Park University in Pittsburgh. She is an active member of USA 829 and USITT, and received her MFA in Lighting Design from Carnegie Mellon University. catwilsondesigns.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Victoria Deiorio, Lili-Anne Brown, Caswell James, James Simon, Theatre at the Center, Columbia College Chicago Theatre Dept., Blair Robertson, Depaul University Theatre Dept., Matthew Yee, Spencer Meeks, Karl Hamilton, Actors’ Equity Association, Eric Martin

SEASON SPONSORS

Mona and Michael Heath are avid fans and supporters of Chicago theatre, especially in intimate storefront spaces. They have worked with a number of Chicago theatre companies as production sponsors, season sponsors, and co-producers. Mona and Michael have been production sponsors for Firebrand’s first two seasons including (*LIZZIE, 9 to 5 The Musical, Caroline, or Change, and Queen of the Mist*), and are pleased to serve as season sponsors for Firebrand’s third season. Other notable projects include the Heath Main Stage at the Den Theatre and the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium’s Accessible Equipment Loan Program. In 2017 the Heaths received the annual Tribute Award from the League of Chicago Theatres. For more information, see www.heathfund.org.

ABOUT FIREBRAND

Firebrand Theatre is a musical theatre company committed to employing and empowering womxn by expanding their opportunities on and off the stage. Firebrand is a 501(c)(3) Equity theatre. **Artistic Director:** Harmony France, **Associate Artistic Director:** Jon Martinez, **Grants and Fundraising:** Danni Smith, **Social Media Director:** Amanda Horvath-Adair, **Casting Director:** Adelina Feldman-Schultz; **Advisory Board:** Lili-Anne Brown, Brenda Didier, Emjoy Gavino, Amber Mak, **Company Members:** Becca Brown, Giselle Castro, Sydney Charles, Liz Chidester, Eric Martin, Natalie O’hea, Amelia Jo Parish, Tyler Symone, Andra Velis Simon and JC Widman.

FIREBRANDTHEATRE.ORG
Harmony France and Christina Hall will be alternating roles of Patsy Cline and Louise Seger, appearing opposite of each other at every performance.

USE THE CODE PATSY30 to save $10 if you would like to come back and see the cast switched!