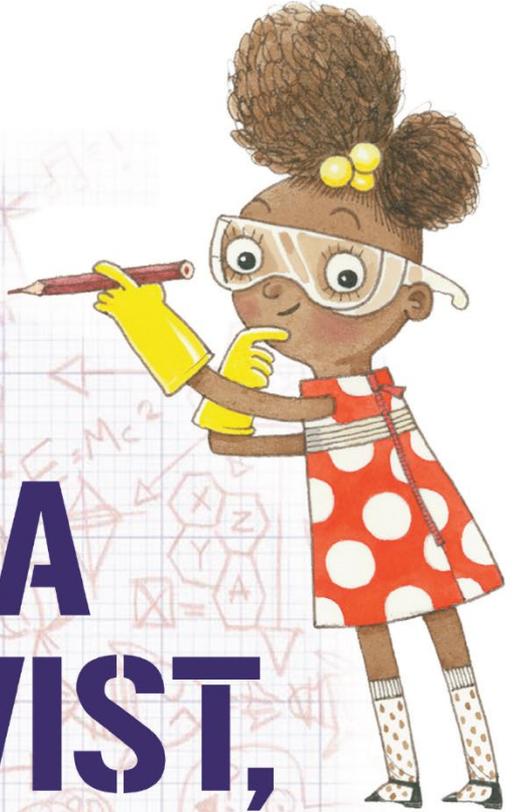
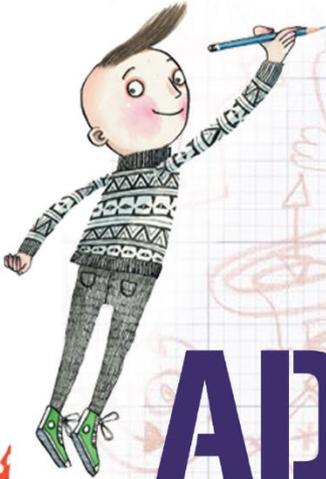


**THEATER**  
**WORKS** USA



# ADA TWIST, SCIENTIST & FRIENDS



McANINCH ARTS CENTER

Oct 24, 2025

## Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez  
Executive Director  
McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center  
at College of DuPage  
presents

# ADA TWIST, SCIENTIST & FRIENDS

*presented by*



*Based on the books Rosie Revere, Engineer; Iggy Peck, Architect; and  
Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty with illustrations by David Roberts*

McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from  
the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Fri, Oct 24, 2025, 7p  
Belushi Performance Hall

## PROGRAM

“Everything is New” .....	Rosie, Iggy, Ada, Lila Greer
“Out of Sync” .....	Lila Greer
“Iggy at Home” .....	Iggy, Iggy’s Dad
“Ada at Home” .....	Ada, Ada’s Mom
“Rosie at Home/Return to School” .....	Rosie, Iggy, Ada, Lila Greer
“Field Trip!” .....	Lila Greer, Great Great Aunt Rose, Rosie, Iggy, Ada
“Iggy Peck, Architect” .....	Iggy, Company
“Pop Pop Pop” .....	Ada, Company
“Rosie Revere, Engineer” .....	Rosie, Company
“It Comes Together” .....	Great Great Aunt Rose, Rosie, Iggy, Ada
“Don’t Slow Me Down” .....	Company

## CAST

Ada Twist.....	Donnalesly Fondjo
Great Great Aunt Rose .....	Jeané Cummins
Iggy Peck .....	Carson Merrick
Lila Greer .....	Karis Knierim
Rosie Revere.....	Madelyn Casey

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....	Barbara Pasternack
Managing Director .....	Tegan Meyer
Stage Manager .....	Karlie Robinson
Tour Director .....	Jillian Carucci
Tour Choreographer.....	Michael Anthony Sylvester
Associate Director/Choreographer .....	Julia Lennon
Tour Music Direction .....	Paolo C. Perez
Orchestrations .....	Lloyd Kikoler
Book .....	Lauren Gunderson
Music .....	Bree Lowdermilk
Lyrics .....	Kait Kerrigan
Costume Design .....	Jen Caprio
Set Design .....	Anne Mundell
Original Director .....	Peter Flynn
Original Choreographer .....	Marcos Santana



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## CAST PROFILES



**Donnalesly Fondjo** (Ada) is a May 2025 BFA Acting graduate from Ithaca College with a minor in African Diaspora Studies. Recent credits include Dynamite in *Hairspray*, Norma in *Carrie the Musical*, and Mersister/Princess/Dance Captain in *The Little Mermaid* at Festival 56, IL, as well as Rose in *Fever/Dream* (Hangar Theatre, NY) and Lucrece in *The Liar* (Kitchen Theatre, NY). Fondjo is blessed and thrilled to be going on her first tour and is deeply grateful to God, her family, and her friends for their continued love and support.



**Jeané Cummins** (Great Great Aunt Rose) is a 26 year old who is so excited to perform tonight! She has been in numerous musicals and a couple of plays such as *The Color Purple* (Nettie and Doris), *Full Circle* Off-Broadway (originated the role of Halley), *Lucy/Bluebeard* by Ed Levy (Narrator), *Working the Musical* (Maggie Holmes), *Shrek the Musical* (Dragon), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Chiffon), *Beauty and the Beast* (Wardrobe), and *Legally Blonde* (Paulette). Plays include *Midnight Summer's Dream* at the Mile Square Theatre (Moth), *Fortune* by the playwright George Cameron Grant (Mama), *Somewhere I can scream* Off-Broadway (Alice Bustin, Agnes, and College girl 1). She came back from a three month European Tour called "The Original USA Gospel Singer." "I want nothing more but to let you escape from reality tonight; I hope you enjoy the show tonight!"



**Carson Merrick** (Iggy) is a New York-based actor originally from California and a recent graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Art's New Studio on Broadway. In the fall, he made his Off-Broadway debut in *Hucka* at The Players' Theater, and previously appeared in NYU's productions of *A Chorus Line*, *The Great Comet of 1812*, and *Bright Star*. You can reach him on Instagram @carsonmerrick.



**Karis Knierim** (Lila Greer) (She/Her) is so excited to reprise her role as the lovely Lila Greer in this wonderful show! Some of her favorite previous credits include Fern in TheatreWorksUSA's *Charlotte's Web* and Mopsa in *Head Over Heels*. She is a graduate of CAP21, and when not on stage you can find her making animal friends, playing board

## CAST PROFILES

games, or reading. She wants to thank God, her family, her fiancée David, and her friends for their continued support. Hope you enjoy the show!



**Madelyn Casey** (Rosie) is a NYC based performer and Pennsylvania native. Casey is ecstatic to be touring with Ada and all of her friends!! Most recent credits include “Martha” *Spring Awakening*, “Minnie” *Shadow of a Gunman*, “Molly” *Peter And The Starcatcher*, and “Jack” *Jack and the Beanstalk*. She cherishes every opportunity to perform and is endlessly thankful to the wonderful people at TWUSA for this opportunity, and as always, her family and friends for their love and support!

## PRODUCTION STAFF PROFILES

**Karlie Robinson** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to join *Ada Twist: Scientist and Friends* for her second tour with TheaterWorksUSA. Most recently she returned for her fourth season as the Production Stage Manager at the Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater in Chautauqua, New York. Her previous theatrical credits include *Charlotte’s Web* (TheaterWorksUSA), *The Magic Flute* (Hillman Opera), and *Emma* (Elmira Little Theater). She is a graduate of State University of New York with a BFA in Theatrical Production and Design. Robinson wants to thank her friends, family, and dog for their unwavering love and support. Enjoy the show!

**Jillian Carucci** (Tour Director) (she/her/hers) is a director, educator, and Associate Artistic Director of TheaterWorksUSA. She is passionate about creating quality theater for young audiences and supporting early career artists. At TheaterWorksUSA, she manages artistic programming in addition to casting musical productions, workshops, and readings each season. As a director and educator, she has worked off- Broadway and regionally at theaters such as: The Hangar Theatre, Atlantic Acting School, McCarter Theatre Center, Keen Company, & Mile Square Theatre. She teaches on the BFA Musical Theatre faculty at CAP21/ Molloy College and serves on the Directors Council of The Drama League, the Artistic Advisory Board at Forestburgh Playhouse, and is a Drama League Directors Project Fellowship recipient (2017).

## PRODUCTION STAFF PROFILES

www.jilliancarucci.com Big thanks to this absolute dream STEAM team and all my love to Andrew and Elodie. This one's for you, EI!

**Michael Anthony Sylvester** (Tour Choreographer) is thrilled to return to TheaterWorksUSA! He has worked all over DFW, the U.S., and Canada as a performer, choreographer, director, and instructor. Directing: *Spring Awakening* (Ohlook Performing Arts Center), *Annie* (Mill Mountain Theatre), and *In The Heights* (Associate Director, Mill Mountain Theatre). Choreography Credits include: *El Otro Oz* (TheaterWorksUSA), *Junie B's Essential Survival Guide for School* (TheaterWorksUSA), *Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer* world premiere, *Alamo the Musical*, *Alice in Wonderland* (Casa Manana), and more. He also choreographed the family friendly movie "RISING STAR'S" starring Kyle Riabko, Leon Thomas III, and featuring Rebecca St. James available on Amazon Prime, Itunes, and Apple TV. When not performing Sylvester also developed a passion and love for giving back to the arts community through education and community outreach. He is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and is currently represented by CESD Talent Agency in New York City.

**Paolo C. Perez** (Tour Music Direction) Following in the footsteps of the long haired rockers that came before them, Perez has been performing and teaching in musical theater and rock n roll for the last 15 years. From playing around the world on board Celebrity Cruise ships, to teaching at schools such as the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts and Brooklyn Children's Theater, they have always brought a certain level of energy to the musical stories they lend their talents to. A frequent collaborator with The Second City Improv, recent Musical Direction credits include *Urinetown* at RTC, Anna Roisman's *Jewish American Prodigy*, and various TheaterWorks shows. @TheRealPCP on all socials.

**Lloyd Kikoler** (Orchestrations) (he/him) is a New York City based orchestrator, producer, and multi-instrumentalist. His work in theatre includes, *Macbeth In Stride* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), *Earth Rise* (Kennedy Center), *Dot Dot Dot: A New Musical* (TheaterWorksUSA), *Eighty-Sixed* (Diversionsary Theatre).

## PRODUCTION STAFF PROFILES

**Lauren Gunderson** (Book) has been one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015, topping the list four times including 2025/26. She is a two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for *I and You* and *The Book of Will*, the winner of the William Inge Distinguished Achievement in Theatre Award, the Lanford Wilson Award, and a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her plays have been translated into a dozen languages and produced across the world, and her new anthology, “Revolutionary Women,” is published by Bloomsbury. LaurenGunderson.com and @LalaTellsAStory

**Bree Lowdermilk** (Music) Off-Broadway: *The Mad Ones* and *Henry and Mudge*. Regional: Kennedy Center, Kimmel Center, and Lincoln Center. Residencies: McDowell and Mercer. Awards: Jonathan Larson, Alan Menken, and Richard Rodgers. Albums: *Kerrigan-Lowdermilk Live*, *Our First Mistake* (#1 Singer/Songwriter chart), and *The Mad Ones* (+30 million streams, thousands of fan-videos). Lowdermilk is a trans woman, a mom, and an advocate for queer voices and stories. Gratitude to Lauren, Kait, Peter, Barbara, and TheaterWorksUSA. Love to Anna and Elia.

**Kait Kerrigan** (Lyrics) is an award-winning bookwriter, lyricist, and playwright. BROADWAY: *The Great Gatsby* (book); WEST END: *The Great Gatsby*, *The Time Traveller’s Wife* (add’l lyrics); OFF-BROADWAY: *The Mad Ones* (book and lyrics), and *Henry and Mudge* (lyrics and book - Kleban Award). Additional musicals include: *The Heart* (book, add’l lyrics), *Indigo* (book), *Justice* (lyrics), *Earthrise* (lyrics), and the pop-up immersive Brooklyn house party *The Bad Years* (book and lyrics). Her plays include *Father/Daughter*, *Imaginary Love*, and *Disaster Relief*. Follow @kaitkerrigan. For Lucy and Tess - You’ll never know if you don’t try.

**Jen Caprio** (Costume Design) Broadway: *Heart of Rock and Roll*, *Spamalot* (2023 Revival), *Falsettos*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. National/International: *Falsettos*, *Joseph...*, *The Lion* (West End/US Tour), *...Spelling Bee* (US Tours), and various rock revues. New York: City Center Encores!, Audible/Minetta Lane, Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout, Primary Stages, Cherry Lane, LaMama, ETC, and others. TV: *Falsettos* (PBS Great Performances), *Sesame Street* (seasons 47-54), *The Not-Too-Late Show with Elmo*

## PRODUCTION STAFF PROFILES

(Seasons 1-2), *Manhunt* (Apple TV+), and *Tiny Time Travel* (PBS/YouTube). 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2025 Daytime Emmy Nomination, 2020 Daytime Emmy Winner for *Sesame Street*. [www.jencaprio.com](http://www.jencaprio.com)  
Instagram: @jencapriocostumedesign

**Peter Flynn** (Original Director) Recent credits include the off-Broadway premiere of *Smart Blonde* by Willy Holtzman, *Matilda* for the Onley Theatre, and *Into the Woods* for Ford's Theatre, where he is an Associate Artist. NY credits include *Curvy Window* at the Westside Theatre, *Chess*, *Funny Girl* with Whoopi Goldberg and Sutton Foster, *Our Town* with B.D. Wong, *On the 20th Century*, *Skippyjon Jones* and *Junie B. Jones* (two Lucille Lortel Award nominations), and *Rhapsody in Seth* starring Seth Rudetsky. Other credits include *Ragtime* (Helen Hayes Award nominee), *Born Yesterday*, *Andrea Martin: Final Days Everything Must Go*, *The Mountaintop*, *Gypsy, 1776*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Man of La Mancha* (Carbonell Award, Best Direction). Flynn is an Associate Professor of Musical Theatre at Montclair State University, the former Artistic Director of the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, NY, and a graduate of Northwestern University.

**Marcos Santana** (Original Choreographer) was born and raised in Puerto Rico. Broadway: *On Your Feet* (Assoc.) Tony nomination Marquis Theater, *Rocky* (Assoc.) Tony nomination Winter Garden Theater, *Guys & Dolls* (Assoc.) Nederlander Theater, Others: *In The Heights* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Singing In The Rain* (Olney Theatre Centre), *West Side Story* (Maltz Jupiter Theater), *Evita* (Bay Street Theatre), *Man Of La Mancha* (Westport Country Playhouse), and *In The Heights* (Olney Theater, Hellen Hayes Award, Broadway World Award). Film/TV: *Chasing Papi*, *Across The Universe*, *The Producers*, *Annie*, *Diva Las Vegas*, *The Nikki Cox Show*, *Pop Stars*, *Tony awards*, *Stephen Colbert Show*, and *Good Morning America*, among others.

## ABOUT THEATERWORKSUSA

(Barbara Pasternack, Producing Artistic Director; Tegan Meyer, Managing Director) has led the Theater for Young and Family Audiences movement in New York City and across North America for over half a century. At TWUSA, we believe that access to art—and theater, in

## ABOUT THEATERWORKSUSA

particular—is vital for our youth. Since 1967, the 501(c)3 not-for-profit has captured the imaginations of 100 million new and veteran theatergoers with an award-winning repertoire of over 140 original plays and musicals. Acclaimed alumni include Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Disney's Frozen), Daphne Rubin-Vega (Rent), Jerry Zaks (The Music Man), Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (Dear Evan Hansen), Miguel Cervantes (Hamilton), Kathleen Chalfant (Angels in America), and Chuck Cooper (Tony award-winning actor, The Life).  
[WWW.TWUSA.ORG](http://WWW.TWUSA.ORG)

# Dining Partners!

**Eat, drink & enjoy -  
MAC dining partners**



For all your pre-show meals and post-show bites, we are thrilled to be partnering with these neighborhood restaurants. Our dining partners offer MAC patrons exclusive discounts and special offers. All MAC ticket orders receive coupons to these local favorite restaurants!



The MAC offers all of this for you,  
but we can't do it without you!



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THAT ENRICHES AND ENTERTAINS!**



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# Friends of the MAC

The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

## Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

## Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

**For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or [foundation@codfound.org](mailto:foundation@codfound.org).**

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 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph  
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 John Mulherin  
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 Mr. Jonathan Nadel  
 Keegan Newkirk  
 Kurt and Marla Parent  
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 Ms. Jennifer Robinson  
 Marlene and Bob Rosecrans  
 Douglas and Barbara  
 Rundell  
 Nancy Sabatini  
 Mr. Sean Sampey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom K.  
 Samuelson  
 Ms. Robin N. Schmidt  
 Music for Meghan

The Second City  
 Geoffrey St John  
 John Stechman  
 Mrs. Marilyn A. Steenwyk  
 Laura Stewart  
 Suzan and Glenn Stith  
 Cherry Stoddard  
 Elizabeth Stoffel  
 Studebaker Theater  
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 Sonny B. Banick  
 Cynthia Baranowski  
 Janella Barbrow  
 Ms. Darlene G. Barger  
 Natasha Barnett  
 Mr. Thomas Barnett  
 Mr. Alvin Barnickel  
 Amelia Barrett  
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 Mr. Edwin Berndt  
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## Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit [AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer](http://AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer) to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator  
Rob Nardini: [nardinir@cod.edu](mailto:nardinir@cod.edu) | (630) 942-3705.

## HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or [grouptix@cod.edu](mailto:grouptix@cod.edu) to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

## MAC STAFF LISTING

### MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager.....	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager.....	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art.....	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant.....	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator.....	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer.....	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator.....	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager.....	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator.....	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Clerical Assistant.....	Kate Cadag

### MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager.....	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors.....	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants.....	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager.....	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator.....	Rob Nardini

### MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director.....	Gus Menary
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager.....	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor.....	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian.....	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager.....	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian.....	Ryan Michel

### MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher.....	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager.....	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist.....	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist.....	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE.....	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands.....	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka



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