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X

Thank you for celebrating with us and enjoy the show!

Jeffrey Cass, Artistic Director



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info@brightsidetheatre.com

**BrightSideTheatre.com**

artistic director **JEFFREY CASS**

executive director **JULIE ANN KORNAK**

# **GYPSEY**

## **A Musical Fable**

Book by  
**ARTHUR LAURENTS**

Music by  
**JULE STYNE**

Lyrics by  
**STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

Suggested by memoirs of  
**Gypsy Rose Lee**

Entire production originally directed and choreographed by  
**Jerome Robbins**

with

**Amy Arbizzani Tom Jesse Emma Widlowski**

**Noelle Jay Trent Ramert**

**Michelle Bolliger Marianne Embree Kelley Dale**

**Paul Mullen Lanah Vurnakes Willa Zatenbloom John Zimmerman**

**Meghan Kessel Sara Beth Lipsman Trillium Falotico**

**Erol Ibrahimović Christopher Charles First Last Sean Rhead**

**Layla Joan Grace Williams Ronan Sarlati Ari Lawrence Spencer Schillinger**

Scenic Design  
**ERIC LUCHEN**

Lighting Design  
**SAMUEL STEPHEN**

Costume Designer  
**SHANNA HALL**

Prop Design  
**PEGGY JENSEN**

Sound Mixing  
**TIM ELLIOT**

Stage Manager/Asst. Director  
**DE HADDAD**

Music Director  
**SARA CATE LANGHAM**

Choreographer  
**JENI DONAHUE**

Directed by  
**JEFFREY CASS**

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# CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Uncle Jocko .....	<b>PAUL MULLEN</b>
Georgie .....	<b>TRENT RAMERT</b>
Vladimir .....	<b>SPENCER SCHILLINGER</b>
Balloon Girl .....	<b>LAYLA JOAN</b>
Baby June .....	<b>LANAH VURNAKES</b>
Baby Louise .....	<b>WILLA ZATENBLOOM</b>
Rose .....	<b>AMY ARBIZZANI</b>
Pop .....	<b>JOHN ZIMMERMAN</b>
Driver .....	<b>EROL IBRAHIMOVIĆ</b>
Rich Boy .....	<b>SPENCER SCHILLINGER</b>
Tap Dancer .....	<b>ARI ELI</b>
Boy Scout .....	<b>RONAN SARLTI</b>
Weber .....	<b>PAUL MULLEN</b>
Herbie .....	<b>TOM JESSIE</b>
Dainty June .....	<b>JAY NOELLE</b>
Louise .....	<b>EMMA WIDLOWSKI</b>
Yonkers .....	<b>CHRISTOPHER CHARLES</b>
L.A. ....	<b>TBD</b>
Tulsa .....	<b>TRENT RAMERT</b>
Mr. Goldstone .....	<b>JOHN ZIMMERMAN</b>
Waitress .....	<b>MEGHAN KESSEL</b>
Miss Cratchitt .....	<b>MICHELLE BOLLIGER</b>
Agnes .....	<b>MEGHAN KESSEL</b>
Marjorie May .....	<b>SARAH BETH LIPSMAN</b>
Dolores .....	<b>TRILLIUM FALITICO</b>
Cigar .....	<b>PAUL MULLEN</b>
Pastey .....	<b>TBD</b>
Tessie Tura .....	<b>MARIANNE EMBREE</b>
Mazeppa .....	<b>KELLEY DALE</b>
Electra .....	<b>MICHELLE BOLLIGER</b>
Announcer .....	<b>SEAN RHEAD</b>
Renee .....	<b>TRILLIUM FALITICO</b>
Phil .....	<b>TRENT RAMERT</b>
Bougeron-Cochon .....	<b>EROL IBRAHIMOVIĆ</b>

## UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance

For Louise: MEGAN KESSEL; for Dainty June: SARAH BETH LIPSMAN

for Herbie/Godstone: PAUL MULLEN; for Baby June/Louis: LAYLA JOAN, GRACE WILLIAMS



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash is strictly prohibited.

# SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT ONE

Overture.....	Orchestra
Scene 1: <b>Vaudeville theatre stage. Seattle.</b>	
<i>May We Entertain You</i> .....	<i>Baby June and Baby Louise</i>
Scene 2: <b>Kitchen. Seattle.</b>	
<i>Some People</i> .....	<i>Rose</i>
Scene 3: <b>Road between Seattle and Los Angeles.</b>	
<i>Reprise: Some People</i> .....	<i>Rose</i>
Scene 4: <b>Backstage of vaudeville theatre. Los Angeles.</b>	
<i>Small World</i> .....	<i>Rose and Herbie</i>
Scene 5: <b>Stage of vaudeville theatre. Los Angeles.</b>	
<i>Baby June &amp; Her Newsboys</i> .....	<i>Baby June, Baby Louise &amp; Newsboys</i>
Scene 6: <b>Hotel Room. Akron.</b>	
<i>Have an Eggroll, Mr. Goldstone</i> .....	<i>Rose, Herbie, June, Louise, Mr. Goldstone &amp; Boys</i>
<i>Little Lamb</i> .....	<i>Louise</i>
Scene 7: <b>Chinese restaurant. New York.</b>	
<i>You'll Never Get Away From Me</i> .....	<i>Rose and Herbie</i>
Scene 8: <b>Stage of Grantziger's Palace Theatre. New York.</b>	
<i>Dainty June and Her Farmboys</i> .....	<i>Dainty June &amp; Farmboys</i>
Scene 9: <b>Mr. Grantziger's Office.</b>	
<i>If Momma Was Married</i> .....	<i>Louise &amp; June</i>
Scene 10: <b>Theatre alley. Buffalo.</b>	
<i>All I Need Is the Girl</i> .....	<i>Tulsa &amp; Louise</i>
Scene 11: <b>Railway station. Omaha.</b>	
<i>Everything's Coming Up Roses</i> .....	<i>Rose</i>

## THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

## ACT TWO

Entr'acte.....	Orchestra
Scene 1: <b>Desert. Texas.</b>	
<i>Madame Rose's Toreadorables</i> .....	<i>Louise &amp; the Hollywood Blondes</i>
<i>Together Wherever We Go</i> .....	<i>Rose, Herbie &amp; Louise</i>
Scene 2: <b>Backstage of a burlesque house. Wichita.</b>	
<i>You Gotta Get a Gimmick</i> .....	<i>Mazeppa, Electra &amp; Tessi Tura</i>
Scene 3: <b>Backstage corridor. Wichita.</b>	
Scene 4: <b>Backstage &amp; Onstage: Wichita, Detroit, Philadelphia &amp; Minsky's Burlesque.</b>	
<b>The Strip</b>	
Scene 5: <b>Louise's dressing room, Minsky's Burlesque.</b>	
Scene 6: <b>Stage.</b>	
<i>Rose's Turn</i> .....	<i>Rose</i>

# ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keys: **SARA CATE LANHAM**

Keys 2: **PHIL VIDECKIS**; Trumpet: **SCOTT KELLEY**; Trumpet 2: **PAUL OHDE**

Reeds: **JESSICA CLARK, HEATHER WINTERS**; Violin: **KATIE BROWN**;

Bass: **MARISA BELLIE**; Percussion: **BILL WINTERS**

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	<b>JEFFREY CASS</b>
Music Director.....	<b>SARA CATE LANGHAM</b>
Chorographer.....	<b>JENI DONAHUE</b>
Production Stage Manager/Asst. Director.....	<b>DE HADDAD</b>
Asst. Stage Manger.....	<b>HALEY SHADDEN</b>
Scenic Design.....	<b>ERIC LUCHEN</b>
Lighting Design.....	<b>SAMUEL STEPHEN</b>
Properties Designer.....	<b>PEGGY JENSEN</b>
Costume Design.....	<b>SHANA HALL</b>
Assistant Costume Designer.....	<b>LESLIE HEATH</b>
Sound Mixer.....	<b>TIM ELLIOTT</b>
Technical Director.....	<b>JEFF SAND</b>
Production Assistant.....	<b>TRENTON BRONSON</b>

## BRIGHTSIDE THEATRE

**JULIE ANN KORNAK**

Executive Director

**JEFFREY CASS**

Artistic Director

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# THE CAST



AMY ARBIZZANI



TOM JESSE



EMMA WIDLOWSKI



NOELLE JAY



TRENT RAMERT



MICHELLE BOLLIGER



MARIANNE EMBREE



KELLEY DALE



PAUL MULLEN



LANAH VURNAKES



WILLA ZATENBLOOM



JOHN ZIMMERMAN



MEGHAN KESSEL



SARAH BETH LIIPSMAN



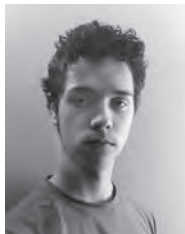
TRILLIUM FALOTICO



EROL IBRAHIMOVIC



TBD



CHRISTOPHER CHARLES



LAYLA JOAN



GRACE WILLIAMS



RONAN SARLATI



ARI LAWRENCE



SPENCER SCHILLINGER



SEAN RHEAD

## PROFILES

**AMY ARBIZZANI** (*Rose*) returns to BrightSide after appearing in *She Loves Me* last fall. Prior to performing Off-Broadway, she toured nationally with *The Light in the Piazza* (1st Broadway National Tour) and internationally with *Twice Charmed* (Fairy Godmother) - but is perhaps best remembered by Chicago audiences as “Lucille Frank” in *Parade* (Jeff Award, Best Actress), or “Alma Stossel” in *The Christmas Schooner*. She holds a Masters in Education, serving as an academic and performing arts educator since 2002. Curtain up!

**TOM JESSE** (*Herbie*) is happy to be working with BrightSide in one of his favorite shows. Past roles include *Forever Plaid* (Sparky/Smudge), *The Most Happy Fella* (Joey), *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely), and *Singin' in the Rain* (Don). Tom teaches music, choir, speech and drama at Liberty JH in New Lenox, and in his off hours sings professionally with FAMEntertainment. He lives in Westmont. Love to Paté for letting me play.

**EMMA WIDLowski** (*Louise*) is delighted to be onstage with BrightSide Theatre once again! Previous BrightSide shows include *Hairspray*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Disney's *The Descendants*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *She Loves Me*.

**NOELLE JAY** (*Dainty June/Thelma/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back at BrightSide Theatre where she made her professional debut playing “Sophie Sheridan” in *Mamma Mia!* last year. Noelle graduated from Carthage College in 2019 with a B.A. in music theatre and a minor in dance. Since graduating, Noelle teaches dance by day and dances by night as a company member with @hailmarysdance. She is eternally grateful for the endless support of her family and friends, especially Harry Styles.

**TRENT RAMERT** (*Tulsa/Georgie/Phil/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be a part of the company of *Gypsy*. Trent is originally from Minnesota and is currently pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance and a Minor in Dance at Columbia College Chicago. Previous Chicago credit includes *The Wild Party* (Jackie) with Blank Theatre Company. Columbia College Chicago credits include *Bat Boy the Musical* (Ensemble) and *Edges* (Swing). Thanks to all the support from his family, friends, and coffee.

**MICHELLE BOLLIGER** (*Electra/Miss Chratchitt/Ensemble*) is beyond thrilled to be back on the BST stage! She was last seen as the plucky “Ilona” in *She Loves Me*. Other BST credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), Disney's *The Descendants* (Fairy Godmother), *Hairspray!* (Amber), and *Guys and Dolls* (Ensemble). Michelle can also be seen working with Chicago Kids Company. When not onstage, she is busy chasing around her 3-year-old toddler Sophie Sue and rescue pup Margo Merlot. Michelle would like to thank her amazing husband, parents, family, and friends for all their support through the years.

**MARIANNE EMBREE** (*Tessi Tura/Ensemble*) is making her debut with BrightSide Theater in a role she was born to play. Most recently she appeared in *Seussical, the Musical* (Sour Kangaroo), *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake) and *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn). In addition to professional work in Nashville, TN, she traveled the nation performing in shows such as *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah), *The Secret Garden* (Rose), *City of Angels* (Alaura) and *Will Rogers Follies* (Betty Blake).

**KELLEY DALE** (*Mazepa/Ensemble*) is elated to be back for her third production at BrightSide, Kelley has also been seen in *A Christmas Carol the Musical* (Ensemble) and *Mamma Mia!* (Donna). Other favorite roles include performances in *Hair* (Crissy), *The Sound of Music* (Maria), and *Cabaret* (Lulu). A private voice and piano instructor by day, Kelley wants to dedicate her performance to her village; her family who helps her shine in her favorite role ever, “Mom of Three Awesome Kids.”

**PAUL MULLEN** (*Uncle Jacko/Weber/Cigar and Standby Herbie/Pop/Goldstone*) BrightSide: Kodaly in *She Loves Me*, Harry in *Mamma Mia!* Favorites: Harold Hill in four productions of *The Music Man* (NCC, Music On Stage, White Pines Dinner Theatre, and Forte Productions at Pheasant Run Resort), Leo in *The Producers* (MOS), and Lord Farquaad in *Shrek* (Magical Starlight, MOS). Paul is a clinical psychologist and co-founder of True North Clinical Associates, and a professor of Psychology at North Central College. “For my favorite Jocko, Frank: hoedown, honey!”

**LANAH VURNAKES** (*Baby June*) is thrilled to make her debut performance at BrightSide Theatre! Some of Lanah’s favorite roles have included playing Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis Performing Arts), “Marta von Trapp” in *The Sound of Music* (Big Noise Theatre), Annie in *Annie* and Mal in Disney’s the *Descendants* (Wilmette Park District), Flounder in Disney’s *The Little Mermaid* (Community House Theater), and Chip in Disney’s *Beauty & The Beast* (BAM Theatre). Lanah thanks her family & friends for their support!

**WILLA ZATENBLOOM** (*Baby Louise*) hopes to make you smile! Last seen at BrightSide as Grace/Fan in *A Christmas Carol the Musical*. Favorite past roles: “Lord Farquaad” (*Shrek*), “Junie B. Jones” and “Sister Mary Patrick” (*Sister Act Jr.*) Willa is entering 8th grade in 204. She loves playing guitar and cello, drawing, improv, and her dogs. Willa dedicates this performance to her vocal teacher, Dr. Jennifer Barnickel-Fitch, who helped Willa prepare for her *Gypsy* audition.

**JOHN ZIMMERMAN** (*Pop/Mr. Goldstone*) has retired from two careers – special education teacher and newspaper writer. Last seen on the BrightSide Theatre stage as “Vinnie” in *The Odd Couple*. He now spends his free time writing plays, some of which have been produced by theaters across the country, including Chicago. John, who lives in Carol Stream, has also acted in several plays in Chicago and the suburbs.

**MEGHAN KESSEL** (*Agnes/Ensemble Standby Louise*) is happy to be back at BrightSide! Past BST credits include *City of Angels*, *She Loves Me*, and *Promises, Promises*. Other favorites include *Winnie the Pooh* (Owl), Metropolis’ *Christmas Carol* (Christmas Past), and *9 to 5* (Judy Bernly). When not on stage Meghan teaches at Old Town School of Folk Music and works as a Music Director. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support and love!

**SARAH BETH LIPSMAN** (*Marjorie May/Ensemble Standby Dainty June*) is thrilled to be making her BrightSide debut! Chicago credits include: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Metropolis Performing Arts), and *The Polar Express Christmas Show* (Warner Brothers Productions). She holds a BFA in Musical Theater from the Chicago College of Performing Arts. Sarah Beth would like to thank the BrightSide team, and her family and partner for all their endless support!

**TRILLIUM FALOTICO** (*Dolores/Renee/Ensemble*) is very excited to be making her BrightSide Theatre debut! Her past work includes *Eleanor’s Very Merry Christmas Wish* (Sprinkle), Disney’s *The Little Mermaid* (Allana), *Zorro the Musical*, *Miracle on 34th Street* (Olivia Glatt), and *Shrek: The Musical* (Princess Fiona). Trillium studied at Point Park University’s Conservatory of Performing Arts. She enjoys yoga and can usually be found belting Falsettos while she cooks. IG: @Trillium04

**EROL IBRAHIMOVIĆ** (*Angie/Bougeron-Cochon/Ensemble*) is beyond thrilled to be making his debut at BrightSide Theatre! Erol most recently made his professional debut in *Ride the Cyclone* (4Chairs Theatre). Other credits include: *Something Rotten*, *RENT*, *Les Misérables*, *Matilda the Musical*, *Little Women*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Songs for a New World* and *She Loves Me*. BFA CCC 2025. Erol would like to thank his family, friends, and Infinity Arts Academy for their endless love and support.

**CHRISTOPHER CHARLES** (Yonkers) is excited to be joining BrightSide outside of the youth theater. He has been acting in shows since he started in Disney's *Tarzan* at age 7. Last seen as "Officer Eddie" in BrightSide Youth Theater's *Sister Act Jr.* He'd like to thank his family for always supporting his interests.

**LAYLA JOAN** (*Balloon Girl/Standby Baby June and Baby Louise*) age 11, is thrilled to be in her second professional production. She was previously on stage at Paramount Theatre's *The Sound of Music* as the u/s for "Brigitta" and "Marta". Her favorite previous roles have been "Donkey" in *Shrek* at Children's Theatre of Western Springs, and "Annie" in *Annie Kids* with Roadshow, Naperville. Layla thanks the BrightSide team and her family for supporting her. Layla is represented by TalentXAlexander.

**GRACE WILLIAMS** (*Ensemble/Standby Baby June and Baby Louise*) A Naperville native, this is Grace's first year on the performing stage. At BrightSide Theatre she has played roles as a "Henchman" in *Curtis's Crew* and a "Singing Nun" in *Sister Act Jr.* and as "Young Simba" in *The Lion King*. She has explored improv at comedy camp with Second City, and in addition to performing Grace enjoys skateboarding, soccer, ballet and making her own short videos.

**RONAN SARLATI** (*Boy Scout/Ensemble*) is excited to make his professional debut on this stage. He is 10 years old and has enjoyed performing since age six, when he began training at Ovation Academy. His favorite roles include "Frog" in *Frog and Toad Jr.* and "Michael Banks" in *Mary Poppins Kids*. Ronan also performs in two choirs and plays violin with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra. He loves to climb trees and practice foreign languages, sometimes simultaneously.

**ARI LAWRENCE** (*Tap Dancing Child/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making his BrightSide Theatre debut in *Gypsy!* He has previously performed with Children's Theatre of Western Springs in *Matilda the Musical*, *Honk, Jr.*, and most notably as the sassy puppet who wishes he were a real boy, "Pinocchio", and in *Shrek the Musical*. In addition to theatre, Ari enjoys playing baseball, drawing, and spending time with friends and family.

**SPENCER SCHILLINGER** (*Vladimir/Rich Boy/Ensemble*) is excited to perform here at BrightSide Theatre in *Gypsy!* He has previously played Chip in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Overshadowed) and Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* (Wheaton Drama). He loves to tap and be on the stage! He'd like to thank his parents, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends who have supported him as he explores his love for the stage. Thank you to God for giving him his talents.

**SEAN RHEAD** (Announcer) is thrilled to be back with BST. Some past credits with BST include Jafar (Disney's *Descendants*), the Announcer (*Miracle on 34th Street*), and Jacob Marley (*A Christmas Carol the Musical* – Lou Award Nomination). Other favorites include Elijah in *Moby Dick* (Underscore), Frodo in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Jedlicka), and Orin in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Munroe Park Theatre). When Sean is not on stage, he is either producing an audiobook or providing musical instruction to today's youth. All his love to his fiancé Caitlin and their dog Ollie!



**ARTHUR LAURENTS** (1917-2011) (*Book*) was the author of musical plays such as *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Do I Hear A Waltz?*, *Hallelujah Baby!* (1967 Tony Award For Best Musical) and *Nick & Nora*; and the screenplays *The Snake Pit*, *Rope*, *Caught*, *Anastasia*, *Bonjour Tristesse*, *The Way We Were*, and *The Turning Point* (Golden Globe Award, Screenwriters Guild Award, Writers Guild of America Award, National Board of Review Best Picture Award). The last two screenplays were novels as well. His plays included *Claudia Lazlo*, *Home Of The Brave*, *The Time Of The Cuckoo*, *A Clearing In The Woods*, *Invitation To The March*, *The Enclave*, *Scream*, *Two Lives*, *The Radical Mystique*, *My Good Name*, and *Jolson Sings Again*.

Laurents also directed plays and musicals for the theatre, among them *I Can Get It For You Wholesale*, *Invitation To A March*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *The Enclave*, *The Madwoman Of Central Park West*, *Birds of Paradise*, three revivals of *Gypsy* (with Angela Lansbury in 1974, with Tyne Daly in 1989, with Patti LuPone in 2007), *La Cage aux Folles* (1984 Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical, 1985 Sydney Drama Critics Award for Directing) and the 2009 Broadway revival of *West Side Story*.



**JULE STYNE** (1905-1994) (*Music*) made Broadway sing for 50 years with shows including *High Button Shoes*; *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*; *Hazel Flag*; *Gypsy*; *Peter Pan*; *Bells Are Ringing*; *Do Re Mi*; *Subways Are For Sleeping*; *Funny Girl*; *Fade Out-Fade In*; *Hallelujah, Baby!*; *The Red Shoes*; and *Darling of the Day*. His film work includes *Anchors Aweigh* and the Oscar-winning title song for *Three Coins in the Fountain*. His songbook includes "I Don't Want to Walk Without You," "Just in Time," "People," "Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out To Dry," "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "I Fall in Love Too Easily," "Make Someone Happy," "Small World" and "Time After Time." Mr. Styne was a 1990 Kennedy Center Honoree and was the recipient of an Oscar, a Tony, two Grammys, an Emmy, a Donaldson Award and a Drama Critics Award. The following lyricists collaborated with Mr. Styne: Frank Loesser, Sammy Cahn, Leo Robin, E.Y. Harburg, Stephen Sondheim, Susan Birkenhead, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, and Bob Merrill. Mr. Styne served on the Dramatists Guild Council and was a member of ASCAP for more than 50 years.



**STEPHEN SONDHEIM** (1930-2021) (*Lyrics*) wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984), *Into the Woods* (1987), *Assassins* (1991), *Passion* (1994) and *Road Show* (2008) as well as lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959) and *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). Anthologies of his work include *Side by Side* by Sondheim (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99) and *Sondheim on Sondheim* (2010). He composed the scores of the films *Stavisky* (1974) and *Reds* (1981) and songs for *Dick Tracy* (1990) and the television production *Evening Primrose* (1966). His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: *Finishing the Hat* (2010) and *Look, I Made A Hat* (2011). In 2010 the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor.



**JEFFREY CASS** (*Artistic Director/Director*) a Joseph Jefferson Award Nominee has successfully directed over 20 Productions for BrightSide Theatre, most recently the smash hit *Mamma Mia!*, Disney's the *Descendants* and *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play* last season and most recently played Edna in BST's production of *Hairspray*. He holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theater Performance from Roosevelt University. He previously served as the Producing Director for Circle Theatre where he directed 8 Productions including The Who's *Tommy* (6 Joseph Jefferson Nominations including Best Musical and Best Director).

**SARA CATE LANGHAM** (*Music Director/Vocal Director/Keys 1*) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful team in a celebratory 10th season! Her Chicagoland credits include *My Fair Lady* and *The Fantasticks* as Musical Director and onstage in *A Piece of My Heart* (Maryjo), as well as numerous productions as keyboardist with BrightSide, Wheaton Drama, and other local companies. Hawaii credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen Fairfax) and her Po'okela-winning performance in *A Doll's House* (Fru Kristine Linde).

**JENI DONAHUE** (*Choreographer*) earned her BFA in Dance/Vocal Performance from Columbia College. She has been choreographing professionally for over 30 years, working with all age levels/abilities. She is on staff with High Schools, Universities and Theatre companies all over the U.S. Jeni choreographed the Illinois All State productions of Ragtime, Urinetown & Into the Woods and has directed productions of *Rocky Horror* and *American Idiot*. She is the proud mom of Benjamin and Noah, who have followed in her footsteps of pursuing a career in the Arts.

**ERIC LUCHEN** (*Scenic Designer*) is thrilled to return to Brightside where he last designed *Mamma Mia!*. He has designed all over the Chicagoland area and regionally, and in 2018 he received the Joseph Jefferson award for Best Scenic Design for Foxfinder, produced by Interrobang Theatre. Upcoming productions include: *It Runs In the Family*, *Airness* (Citadel Theatre), *The Odd Couple*, *Gypsy* (Brightside), You can see more of his work at [www.ericluchen.com](http://www.ericluchen.com) or on instagram @ericluchen.

**SAM STEPHEN** (*Lighting Designer*) is the lighting designer for BrightSide's Season 10 – Again! They have a B.A. degree in Live Entertainment Design and Technology from North Central College. They have recently designed *Cabaret* at Metropolis, *Little Shop of Horrors* at Citadel, *Dracula* at Glass Apple Theater and *Matilda* at Des Moines Playhouse. They are thrilled to be back at BrightSide after designing *Don't Dress for Dinner* and Disney's the *Descendants* in BrightSide's last season. More about their work can be found at [www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com](http://www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com)

**SHANA HALL** (*Costumer Designer*) is delighted to return to BrightSide! A Lou Award Best Costume Design winner for *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, Shana is thrilled to continue working with the wonderful BrightSide family, which she has been a part of since season one! When not designing for the stage, Shana keeps her creative hands busy making doll clothes for her Etsy shop SewShana. She would like to thank her friends & family for all their love & support!

**LESLIE HEATH** (*Assistant Costume Designer*) holds a Bachelor's degree in Technical Theatre with a double minor in Film Production and Cinema Studies from Central Michigan University. After previously working on *Mamma Mia!*, Leslie is excited to join BrightSide again as a part of the costuming team for this season! Enjoy the show!

**PEGGY JENSEN** (*Props Designer*) is happy to be back with BrightSide Theatre doing props for the mainstage. She is also very proud to have worked on almost all BrightSide Theatre Young Project productions including *Alice in Wonderland*, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.*, *Legally Blonde Jr.*, Disney's *High School Musical Jr.* and Disney's *Frozen Jr.* & *Sister Act, Jr.* She would like to thank her Husband, Jeff, for his love and support and newest member of the family, her tiny dog, Maximus.

**TIM ELLIOTT** (*Sound Mixer*) is an AV and IT tech at Downers Grove South High School, where he's been running sound for school assemblies and special events for over 20 years. Tim has been with BrightSide Theatre since our 9th season and has also run sound for musicals with Community Players of Naperville since 2005.

**DE HADDAD** (*Stage Manager/Assistant Director*) is happy to be continuing with BrightSide for another great season! De holds a BFA in Musical Theater with a dance minor from Millikin University. She has been a director in the Naperville area for 15 years. Favorite Directing credits: *Spamalot*, *Addams Family*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Hobbit*. Favorite acting roles: Gabriella - Disney's *High School Musical*, Mother Superior – *Sound of Music*, and Marty – *Grease*. All my love and thanks to my family for their support!

**JJ O'CONNELL** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be part of the team bringing Gypsy to life! This is her first production with BrightSide Theatre, but she has been doing theater since middle school. She has previously directed and choreographed many shows for children at Kidz Kabaret including Disney's *The Lion King*, *Seussical*, *Bare*, *Zombie Prom*, and *The Sound of Music*.

**JEFF SAND** (*Technical Director*) works in IT at Villa Park Public Library and as a technician at COD's McAninch Arts Center. Treasurer, producer, and designer at Summer Place Theatre. Favorite SPT credits include *The Secret Garden* (sound), *Don't Dress For Dinner* (TD), *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (co-TD, sound design), and *Mamma Mia!* (producer/sound design). BrightSide: *Spamalot*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (TD). Natural Talent Productions: Disney's *Hunchback...* (sound design - regional premiere). Riverfront Playhouse: *Between Riverside and Crazy* (lighting design).

**STACI HAUKE** (*Administrative Assistant*) recently relocated to her hometown of Naperville from Arizona with her husband, kids and pups. There, she was a Magazine and Newspaper writer and editor. She is also a published children's author. Staci plays the roles of theater mom to her daughter and band mom to her son, and loves a good thrift find. She is enjoying involvement in the community by freelancing for local publications and is thrilled to be working at BrightSide!



**JULIE ANN KORNAK** (*Executive Director/Co Founder*) most recently portrayed Amalia in *She Loves Me* and Tanya in *Mamma Mia!* Other favorites are Claudia in BST's inaugural production of the *Concert Series NINE*, Francesca in *Bridges of Madison County* and Maleficent in Disney's the *Descendants* alongside her daughter. She is Associate Music Director at Sts.

Peter & Paul and sings in other area churches. Julie brings not only her love for the theatre but a background in Human Resources to BST. Many thanks to Adam and the kids and mom for their love and support!



**TIN PENAVIC** (*Co-Founder*) performed in BrightSide's productions of *Run for Your Wife*, *God of Carnage*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Bleacher Bums*, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Noises Off* and *The 39 Steps*. TV/ Film: *Mattress World*, *The Balancing Game*, *Moviestar\**, *The Mob Doctor* and *Conrad*. He co-wrote *The Cape* and *The Klan*, now published by LazyBee

Scripts. Love to Mom, Leslie, Ivo, Adrien, Samantha and our father and grandfather John in heaven.

# PRODUCTION HISTORY

2011-2012 The Inaugural Season	2012-2013 Modern Masterpieces	2013-2014 Love, Life & Laughter
Run For Your Wife	Company	Moonlight and Magnolias
The Dinner Party	God of Carnage	Bleacher Bums
My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra	Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.	Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.
	Rent	Cabaret
2014-2015 Friends & Family	2015-2016 Season of Farce	2016-2017 Classic Broadway
It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play	Noises Off	Disney's Beauty & the Beast
Rumors	Not Now, Darling	Moon Over Buffalo
Disney's Aladdin Jr.	Legally Blonde Jr	Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr.
The Sound of Music	Spamalot	Guys & Dolls
2017-2018 Cinema to Stage	2018-2019 Dreamers & Schemers	2019-2020 Guilty Pleasures
Bridges of Madison County	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	A Christmas Carol, The Musical
The 39 Steps	Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike	Nine, The Musical
High School Musical Jr	Fame Jr.	Steel Magnolias
Hairspray	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels	Disney's Frozen Jr.
2020-2021 Summer in the Parks	2021-2022 BrightSide is Back!	2022-2023 Season #0-11 Again!
The Music of Rodgers & Hammerstein	Miracle on 34 Street - A Live Musical Radio Play	She Loves Me
	Promises, Promises	City of Angels
	Don't Dress for Dinner	The Odd Couple
	Disney's Descendants The Musical	Sister Act Jr.
	Mamma Mia!	Gypsy



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