

# 2015/16 SEASON



First Season Production

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse

Suggested by The Trapp Family Singers By Maria Augusta Trapp

Choreographed by Danny Mefford

Directed by Jack O'Brien

Sep 20 – Oct 31, 2015 Second Season Production

## THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY The Broadway Musical

Based on the novel by Robert James Waller

Book by Marsha Norman

Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Directed by Bartlett Sher

Dec 8, 2015 – Jan 17, 2016 Third Season Production Sean Hayes

## AN ACT OF GOD

in

By David Javerbaum Directed by Joe Mantello

Jan 30 – Mar 13, 2016 Fourth Season Production

## A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE To love & Murder

Book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman

Music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak

Choreography by Peggy Hickey

Directed by Darko Tresnjak

Mar 22 – May 1, 2016 Fifth Season Production Rachel York and Betty Buckley in

## **GREY GARDENS**

Book by Doug Wright Music by

Music by Scott Frankel

Lyrics by Michael Korie

Directed by Michael Wilson

Jul 6 – Aug 14, 2016

# **INSPIRING OUR FUTURE**

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> Center Theatre Group wishes to thank the following donors for their significant gifts and for their belief in the transformative power of theatre.

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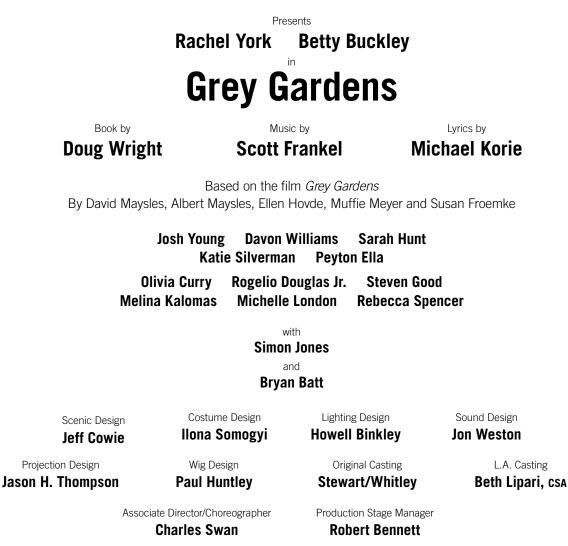
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Directed by Michael Wilson

Grey Gardens is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Originally Produced on Broadway by East of Doheny Staunch Entertainment Randall L. Wreghitt/Mort Swinsky Michael Alden Edwin W. Schloss In association with Playwrights Horizons Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of *Grey Gardens* Off-Broadway on March 7, 2006. Developed with the assistance of The Sundance Institute.

## July 6 – August 14, 2016 AHMANSON THEATRE

PERFORMANCES MAGAZINE P3

## PROLOGUE (1973)

Edith Bouvier Beale	 Betty Buckley
"Little" Edie Beale	 Rachel York*

## ACT I (1941)

Edith Bouvier Beale	Rachel York
Young "Little" Edie Beale	Sarah Hunt
George Gould Strong	Bryan Batt
Brooks, Sr.	
Jacqueline "Jackie" Bouvier	Katie Silverman
Lee Bouvier	Peyton Ella
Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.	Josh Young
J.V. "Major" Bouvier	Simon Jones
-	

## ACT II (1973)

Edith Bouvier Beale	Betty Buckley
"Little" Edie Beale	
Brooks, Jr.	Davon Williams
Jerry	
Norman Vincent Peale	
Choir Singers	The Company
Dance Captain	
Assistant Stage Manager	Denise Yaney

\*Melina Kalomas performs the roles of "Little" Edie Beale/Edith on the evenings of July 17, July 24, July 31 and August 7.

## UNDERSTUDIES

Should an understudy substitute for a listed performer, it will be posted in the lobby at the time of the performance.

## For Jackie; Lee – Olivia Curry

For Brooks, Sr./Brooks, Jr. – **Rogelio Douglas Jr.** For Gould; Joe/Jerry; Major/Peale – **Steven Good** For "Little" Edie Beale/Edith – **Melina Kalomas** For Young "Little" Edie Beale – **Michelle London** For Edith Bouvier Beale – **Rebecca Spencer** 

## SETTING

Act I: July, 1941 Act II: 1973 Place: Grey Gardens, East Hampton, Long Island, NY

## INTERMISSION

Grey Gardens is performed with one intermission.

Inspired by the 2015 Bay Street Theater production of *Grey Gardens* starring Rachel York and Betty Buckley; directed by Michael Wilson.



## **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

## **PROLOGUE** (1973)

"The Girl Who Has Everything"	"
	Luiu

## ACT I (1941)

"The Girl Who Has Everything"	Edith
	Edith, Gould, Jackie, Lee, Brooks, Sr.
"It's Her"	Edith, Gould, Edie and Joe
"Mother Darling"	Edie, Edith and Gould
"Goin' Places"	Joe and Edie
"Marry Well"	"Major" Bouvier, Brooks, Sr., Jackie, Lee, Edie
	Edith, Gould, Jackie, Lee
"Two Peas in a Pod"	Edie and Edith
"Drift Away"	Gould and Edith
"The Five-Fifteen (Reprise)"	Edith
"Daddy's Girl"	Edie and Joe
"The Telegram"	Edie
"Will You?"	Edith

## ACT II (1973)

"The Revolutionary Costume for Today"	Edie
"The Cake I Had"	Edith
"Entering Grey Gardens"	Company
"The House We Live In"	Edie and Company
"Jerry Likes My Corn"	Edith and Edie
"Around the World"	Edie
"Will You? (Reprise)"	Edith and Edie
"Choose to be Happy"	Norman Vincent Peale and Company
"Around the World (Reprise)"	Edie
"Another Winter in a Summer Town"	Edie and Edith
"The Girl Who Has Everything (Reprise)"	Edith and Edie

## ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard	Kevin Stites
Associate Conductor/Keyboard	Gerald Sternbach
Reed 1	
Reed 2	Jeff Driskill
French Horn	Laura Brenes
Trumpet	
Violin	Jen Choi Fischer
Cello	David Mergen
Bass	Ken Wild
Percussion	Cliff Hulling
Contractor	Robert Payne

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, PDAs, beepers and watch alarms. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

# Director **Michael Wilson** Takes Us Home To





**Michael Wilson** [flipping through the *Grey Gardens* script]: I hate quoting wrong. Here we go—"It's very difficult to keep the line between the past and the present. Do you know what I mean? It's awfully difficult."

**Marcos Nájera:** Is that Little Edie's line?

Michael: Yes. and to me that is

one of the great examples of her spontaneous wisdom. It's a line that comes shattering out of the movie [the 1975 Maysles Brothers documentary].

*Grey Gardens* is one of the greatest American documentaries ever made. When I first saw it, I was dragged to it as a young, gay initiate in my 20s in Houston. It was a bunch of gay men camping it up and laughing with, and at, but mostly with these women. I had not seen the full movie since. I got the offer to direct the show at Bay Street Theater [in Sag Harbor, NY]. I was 50. They were showing the movie as part of the 40th anniversary of the 1975 release. I went down to the West Village to Film Forum, one of those wonderful art houses. Twenty-five years had passed. I had such a profoundly different response. I laughed once, twice at the most. All I could feel was the pain of these ladies. The cry to be recognized by the other, to be recognized by a world that had passed them by.

Michael Wilson is an award-winning directorPeedof stage and screen. Ahmanson audiences lastsoenjoyed Wilson's work with Horton Foote'ssistThe Trip to Bountiful. As rehearsals werechastarting for Grey Gardens, he made timetesto talk with Marcos Nájera about his explorationsayof the fascinating mother-daughter duo known... sto tal... stal... stal... stal... stal... stal... stal

People relate to the musical so much—they see their aunt, or their grandmother, mother, sister or themselves in the characters. Albert Maysles described it as a Rorschach test—you might come away saying, "Little Edie is not crazy ... she's an artistic soul meant to have the life she is supposed to have!" Or, you could walk away with, "How did those two

old dames survive as long as they did with their dementia or schizophrenia, or whatever?" You think and feel what reflects your own experience.

We recognize the artists in these women: women from a certain time where they couldn't become a candidate for President of the United States. Women were educated to a point, but were really there to prop up their man. So, these two Edies are rebels.

Marcos: Where did the Beales' money come from?

**Michael:** Phelan Beale was a high-powered New York lawyer. Big Edie was a Bouvier. The Depression hit them terribly. Beale saw his fortunes sink. He had deeded the house to her. She had Bouvier trust money but even that had begun to dwindle.



At lunch recently with our creators, Doug Wright made the comment, "Albert Maysles said they shot so much of the documentary in the bedroom because the women were always in there because that's where they had heat!"

That confirmed everything I ever thought. They were bereft financially. So they started closing off rooms. Which is what everyone does in those big houses. You close off wings of a house and over time, eventually, you and your mother are coming to live in one

a very Yankee pragmatism.

decide. It's very Rashomon.

Marcos: The crazy had a structure.

bedroom! So, it's not as crazy as it seems. It started from

**Michael:** I think so! Whenever you're working on characters such as these, you can't say, "I'm going to play a crazy

person." What is that? You are playing a human being that has made choices that may seem outrageous to some. Perhaps

even scandalous and destructive. But there's an inner logic.

The drama in the second act becomes the clash of these two

women's narratives. Betty Buckley and Rachel York duke it out with our audiences: "Believe me! Don't believe her!" You get to

Marcos: For me that heartbreak comes when the music forces

me to decide who to believe during "Jerry Likes My Corn."

**Michael:** It's so interesting you say this because it was



Michael Wilson. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

**Marcos:** You recently directed *The City of Conversation* at the Wallis here in L.A. Can you share the connection between *Washington Post* reporter Sally Quinn, who is mentioned in that play, and *Grey Gardens*?

**Michael:** Once Big Edie passed away, Little Edie tried to stay in the house. It was even harder for Little Edie on her own, so she decided to sell it.

Sally Quinn and Ben Bradlee [her late husband and former

*Washington Post* editor] came and Little Edie showed them the house. Sally said, "This is the most beautiful house in America." Even though it had paint crumbling and the smell of kitty litter wafting up from the basement. Little Edie turned to her and said, "The house is yours."

Marcos: That gesture touches you.

**Michael:** It does touch me. Both Edies wanted to leave a legacy. The house was a part of that (as are the documentary and the musical). It wasn't really about money. She wanted to pass the house on to someone who was going to love it.

Marcos: Why do family stories matter to you?

**Michael:** I love families, including my own. I have a little of the Little Edie/Big Edie thing with my mother. (Laughs) I think many of us do. Every work I do, I'm still working out unresolved issues within my own family. With *Trip to Bountiful*, you've got a mother running away from her son and daughter-in-law to try to get back home. In *Grey Gardens*, you have a daughter longing to run away from her mother and home, but she can't leave. Both works explore the power of home and family.

originally written as a comic song. But when we started working on it with Betty Buckley—she tells stories through song, she reveals character. One of things we worked on was to reveal Big Edie's inner loneliness and the desire to attach to someone beyond Little Edie.

**Marcos:** In this film/TV town we often look at our emotions and the life riddles we want to solve through images. How are you using that element in this new production?

**Michael:** We are using the film in very unconventional ways. We're going to weave footage from the documentary within the telling of the musical. It will help show how we move from the ladies talking to the Maysles, to the Maysles then being subsumed into the audience. It's all very meta-theatrical. —Marcos Nájera is a journalist, theatre artist and member of Center Theatre Group's teaching artist faculty. He's filed stories for NPR, BBC, CNN, Village Voice Media and Sirius Satellite Radio.

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## WHO'S WHO



**RACHEL YORK** (*"Little" Edie Beale/Edith*) is a dynamic and versatile actress best known for her critically acclaimed Broadway performances in *City of Angels, Les Misérables, Victor/Victoria* (Drama Desk Award) with Julie Andrews, *The Scarlet Pimpernel, Sly Fox* with Richard Dreyfuss, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* opposite

Jonathan Pryce. Most recently, Ms. York starred on Broadway in Disaster! The Musical. She also turned heads on television with her courageous portraval of Lucille Ball in the CBS movie, Lucy. Ms. York previously starred at the Ahmanson as Reno Sweeney in the national tour of Anything Goes (Helen Hayes Award). Also on tour, she created the role of Cruella de Vil in The 101 Dalmatians Musical, starred as Guenevere in Camelot (Carbonell Award) and portrayed Lilli/Kate in Kiss Me, Kate (U.S. tour and London's West End). Off-Broadway she has starred in The Best Is Yet to Come, Dessa Rose (Drama Desk nomination), Putting It Together (Drama Desk nomination), as well as the New York City Center Encores! acclaimed productions of Little Me and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Favorite regional productions include The King and I, Hello, Dolly!, Into the Woods, Ragtime, and Turn of the Century opposite Jeff Daniels. Television appearances include Power, Hannah Montana, Reba, Frasier and Numb3rs. She can also be seen in the new feature film It Had to Be You. As a concert soloist, Ms. York has performed with the New York Pops, the National Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, among many others. For more information, please visit www.rachelyork.com or Twitter: @TheRachelYork.



**BETTY BUCKLEY** (*Edith Bouvier Beale*) who has been called "The Voice of Broadway," is one of theatre's most respected and legendary leading ladies. She is an actress/ singer whose career spans theatre, film, television and concert halls around the world. She was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame for 2012. Buckley reprises

her critically acclaimed performance as Edith Bouvier Beale co-starring with Rachel York at the Bay Street Theater directed by Michael Wilson. She won a Tony Award for *Cats* and received her second Tony Award nomination for *Triumph of Love*, and an Olivier Award nomination in London for her performance in *Sunset Boulevard*, which she repeated to more rave reviews on Broadway. Her other Broadway credits include *1776*, *Pippin*, *Song And Dance*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Carrie*. She has starred in many off-Broadway productions including Horton Foote's *The Old Friends*, also directed by Michael Wilson (for which she received a 2014 Drama Desk nomination). Her film credits include M. Night Shyamalan's *The Happening*, Brian de Palma's *Carrie*, Bruce Beresford's *Tender Mercies*, Roman Polanski's *Frantic*, Woody Allen's *Another Woman* and Lawrence Kasdan's *Wyatt Earp*. She recently completed shooting *Split*, a new film directed by Shyamalan in which she is co-starring with James McAvoy, to be released in January 2017. Her numerous TV credits include the series *Oz* for HBO and four seasons starring as Abby on *Eight Is Enough*. She has received two Emmy nominations, and she has recorded 16 CDs, receiving two Grammy nominations. Her latest CD *Ghostlight* was produced by T Bone Burnett.



**BRYAN BATT** (*George Gould Strong*). TV: Salvatore Romano in *Mad Men* (two SAG Awards), *Ugly Betty, NCIS, NCIS: New Orleans, Law & Order: SVU,* currently Mayor Maddox on MTV's *Scream.* Film: *12 Years a Slave, The Runner, Funny People, The Devil and the Deep Blue* and *Po.* Broadway Principal Roles: *La Cage aux* 

Folles ('05), Beauty and the Beast, Seussical, Sunset Blvd., Saturday Night Fever, The Scarlet Pimpernel, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Starlight Express and Cats. Off-Broadway: Two Forbidden Broadways (Drama Desk nomination). Original Darius onstage in N.Y., L.A. (Drama-Logue Award) and in the film of Paul Rudnick's Jeffrey. His solo cabarets Batt on a Hot Tin Roof and Bryan's Song have played across the U.S., in London and Australia. His books She Ain't Heavy, She's My Mother and Big Easy Style have garnered rave reviews. Bryan and his husband Tom Cianfichi co-own Hazelnut, a fine gift and accessories shop in New Orleans. www.hazelnutneworleans.com, www.bryanbatt.com. Bryan is thrilled to share the stage again with his two favorite leading ladies and pals, Rachel and Betty!



SIMON JONES (J.V. "Major" Bouvier/Norman Vincent Peale). Broadway: The Real Thing, Benefactors, School for Scandal, Getting Married, Private Lives, The Real Inspector Hound, Herbal Bed, Ring Round the Moon, Waiting in the Wings, Blithe Spirit (also in London's West End and North American national tour – all with Angela Lansbury).

Films include *Privates on Parade*, Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life, Brazil, Twelve Monkeys, Miracle on 34th Street, The Devil's Own* and *Searching for Simon*. TV includes *Oz* (HBO), *Cambridge Spies* (BBC) and the portrayal of C.S. Lewis in *The Question of God* (PBS) – but he's still best-known as

Bridey in TV's *Brideshead Revisited* and Arthur Dent in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (radio, TV and stage versions). Award-winning narrator of audio books and Co-Artistic Director for 12 years of TACT, a theatre company based in New York City. Besides the above-mentioned, he has a long list of regional, off-Broadway, film, TV and radio credits, detailed on www.simonjonesinfo.com.



JOSH YOUNG (Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr./Jerry) most recently originated the role of John Newton in Amazing Grace on Broadway. Broadway/National Tour: Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar (Tony Award nomination and Theatre World Award), Che in Evita (BroadwayWorld Award), Marius in Les Misérables and Tony in the 50th

Anniversary International Tour of *West Side Story.* Two seasons at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival including Connie Rivers in *Grapes of Wrath* (BroadwayWorld Award). BFA Syracuse University. Solo albums available on iTunes. www.josh-young.com; Twitter/Instagram @joshpaulyoung.



**DAVON WILLIAMS** (*Brooks, Sr./Brooks, Jr.*) is ecstatic to be making his Center Theatre Group debut at the Ahmanson Theatre in *Grey Gardens.* A native of Baltimore, Maryland, he earned a BFA in theatre from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating, he served as a teaching artist in Philadelphia and

quickly went on to become Theatre Director for the Philadelphia school district's Regional Talent Centers. Recent theatre credits include *Dreamgirls* (McCoy/Rigby), *Festival of the Lion King* (Hong Kong Disneyland), *A Street Car Named Desire* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Titus Andronicus* (Philadelphia Shakespeare), *Rent* (Media Theatre). Special thanks to Jesimiel, Chris Smith, Steven Dry, Steve Walker, Beth Lipari, Kevin Stites and Michael Wilson. @Daywilling.



**SARAH HUNT** (*Young "Little" Edie Beale*) is a recent Juilliard graduate and is so excited to be back with *Grey Gardens* after last year's run at the Bay Street Theater. Sarah made her Broadway debut in Sting's *The Last Ship* and was most recently seen as Jennifer Yaeger in the Encores! production of *Do I Hear a Waltz*? at New

York City Center. Credits include the first national tour of *Spring Awakening*, *Middletown*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *In Arabia We'd All Be Kings* and *Twelfth Night*. Television: *The Blacklist*, *Elementary*. Love and thanks to Soffer-Namoff, Gersh and

family for their support on this crazy adventure. Follow the journey at @SarahHuntNY. Lots of love to her own beautiful Beales: Mom, Jason, Miremal and Nicole. For dad. Not gone.



**KATIE SILVERMAN** (*Jacqueline "Jackie" Bouvier*) is thrilled to be joining the company of *Grey Gardens*. She would like to thank the faculty at the Youth Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she has performed in more than 14 musicals over the years. Katie has appeared twice as a solo vocalist at Carnegie Hall and her film, voice-over

and television credits include *New Girl, Frozen, Children's Hospital, Happy Endings, Private Practice, General Hospital* and *Despicable Me 2.* She is very grateful to her family and team at Take 3 Talent Agency, CESD and Curtis Talent Management



**PEYTON ELLA** (*Lee Bouvier*). TV: NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!* with Carrie Underwood (Gretl von Trapp), PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*, the NY Philharmonic's production of *Show Boat* (young Kim), *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* on CBS (performing with Mr. Colbert and Matthew Broderick), *Weight the Series* 

pilot at Siren Studios in L.A. (Jane). Theatre: *School of Rock* (Summer), *Whistle Down the Wind* (live concert album recording), *54 Below* in NYC, AEA staged reading of *Geranium on the Windowsill* (Amy), *Annie* (Annie), *Shrek* (young Shrek). Off-Broadway: *A Little Princess* (Lottie) at Signature Theatre, Broadway Youth Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. Film: *Bound*. Peyton performs regularly for charity events like Lyrics for Life in N.Y. and L.A. to benefit suicide prevention, St. Jude's Hospital and Covenant House. Love and gratitude to her coaches and teachers, her mom and dad, her four siblings Alexis, Madison, Taylor and Elliot. She dedicates her performances to her grandparents, Mimi, Poppy and Nunu.



**OLIVIA CURRY** (*Understudy for Jackie Bouvier; understudy for Lee Bouvier*) is thrilled to make her Center Theatre Group debut at the Ahmanson. Singing and dancing from an early age, performing has always been in her blood. She danced with ABT in *Le Corsaire* at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Other ballet credits

include Clara in *The Nutcracker* with the Yuri Grigoriev School of Ballet and she was a 2015 Youth American Grand Prix finalist in New York City where she performed in *Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow* at Lincoln Center. Other credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Bye Bye Birdie*  (Kim McAfee), *Singin' in the Rain* (Young Don Lockwood) and *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis). Olivia is an active commercial and voice-over performer and a member of SAG-AFTRA. Special thanks to her team at CESD, Robin Miners, Tamra Glaser and Lisa Picotte. She is supported in her dreams by her parents and two sisters.



**ROGELIO DOUGLAS JR.** (Understudy for Brooks, Sr./Brooks, Jr.) is a rare performer who can legitimately be called a "triple threat" – actor, singer/songwriter and dancer. Rogelio has guest starred on NBC's Dick Wolf spin-off *Chicago PD*, Netflix's hit series *Orange Is the New Black* and landed a recurring role on Showtime's *Ray* 

*Donovan.* On the big screen, he can be seen in the Oscar Award-winning film *Whiplash, Straight Outta Compton* and *Superfast!.* Recently, Rogelio starred in the Pasadena Playhouse limited run of *Kiss Me, Kate*, stopping the show with his performance of the sensual musical classic "Too Darn Hot." He is an original Broadway cast member of the Tony and Grammy Award-winning Lin-Manuel Miranda musical *In the Heights* and starred as Benny in the first national tour. He also starred in Disney's Broadway production of *The Little Mermaid* as Sebastian The Crab, and as a lead tap dancer in the Broadway production of *Riverdance: The Show.* He is currently in the studio recording his first original album.



**STEVEN GOOD** (Understudy for George Gould Strong; understudy for Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr./Jerry; understudy for J.V. "Major" Bouvier/Norman Vincent Peale) is an actor, singer and musician originally from Gilroy, California. He studied music composition and operatic voice at UC Santa Cruz before achieving an MFA in acting

at Harvard where he performed in the musicals *Once* and *Prometheus Bound*, as well as a run of *Alice vs. Wonderland* at the Moscow Art Theatre. Since arriving in L.A., Steven has shot a series regular role in the pilot *Hallowed Halls*, starred in Lifetime's original movie *Nightmare Nurse*, made a guest appearance in the CW's *Hart of Dixie*, recorded and written for several studio albums, starred in multiple readings of new works, and has appeared in national and international commercials for Carl's Jr., New Balance, Samsung and Sony. Steven is a founding member, guitarist and lead singer of the rock group Thieves of Paradise. You can follow Steven's career on Twitter @thestevengood, or like his page on Facebook.



MELINA KALOMAS (Understudy for "Little" Edie Beale/Edith Bouvier Beale; performs the roles July 17, July 24, July 31 & August 7 eves). First National Tour: Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein (director, Susan Stroman). National Tours: Les Misérables (Madeleine), Camelot (Nimue). Regional: The Light in the Piazza (Franca Naccarelli)

at South Coast Repertory and South Bay Civic Light Opera; Mary Zimmerman's *Arabian Nights* (Perfect Love and Sympathy the Learned) at Berkeley Repertory and Kansas City Repertory; *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette) at 3D Theatricals and Musical Theatre West; *The Unauthorized Musical Parody of Scream!* (Gale Weathers) at Rockwell; *Into the Woods* (Florinda) at 3D Theatricals; *A Man of No Importance* (Mrs. Patrick) at Good People Theater Company; *Zhivago* (La Jolla Playhouse; director, Des McAnuff); *La Boheme* (Opera Pacific); *Desert Song* (Azuri at Fullerton Civic Light Opera; Drama-Logue Award for Best Supporting Actress). TV includes *As the World Turns*, NBC's *Grimm.* BFA from Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. Love and gratitude to my family: Dad, Mom, Nicole, Anthony and Gabriel.



MICHELLE LONDON (Understudy for Young "Little" Edie Beale). Ahmanson debut. Select Stage Credits: Wicked (Nessarose), Legally Blonde (Elle), Les Misérables (Fantine), Shrek (Fiona). Film/Television: Arli\$\$, Drake and Josh, Pretty Persuasion. Graduate of AMDA L.A. Thanks to ATB, Beth Lipari, Center Theatre Group and Zach.



**REBECCA SPENCER** (Understudy for Edith Bouvier Beale). Broadway: Jekyll & Hyde – original cast and Alley Theatre premiere (Lady Beaconsfield /Emma). Hal Prince's Phantom Of The Opera – Germany (Carlotta), The Las Vegas Spectacular, the World Tour (Madame Giry). Celebrated for her versatility from Cunégonde to Dolly Levi.

Theatrical highlights include *Naughty Marietta* (Marietta) with Allan Jones, *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Buttercup) at the Arizona Theatre Company, *Most Happy Fella* (Rosabella) at Jupiter Theatre, Michael John LaChiusa's *Lovers and Friends* (Betsy) at NYC Opera/New Voices, *Jerry Springer the Opera* (Mary/ Irene) at MGM Grand, *The Heir Apparent* (Madame Argante) at ICT, *The Music Man* and *'S Wonderful* at MTW. Guest artist for Marvin Hamlisch (Detroit Symphony), Keith Lockhart (Indianapolis Symphony), Rob Fisher (Encores! and Gershwin Centennial at Carnegie Hall on PBS), Rose Hall/Lincoln Center, Birdland (headliner), Lyric Opera of KC, Minnesota Opera, Opera Omaha. Television: *Third Watch, Law & Order: SVU*. Solo Recordings: *Wide Awake and Dreaming* (Backstage Bistro Award), *Fair Warning* (LML). Faculty: AMDA. AEA! www.rebeccaspencer.com.



**DOUG WRIGHT** (*Book*) earned the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for his play *I Am My Own Wife*. Other stage works include *Grey Gardens* (Tony nomination), *The Little Mermaid* and *Hands on a Hardbody*. Film: *Quills*, based on his Obie-winning play, was nominated for three Academy Awards. Television: *Tony Bennett: An American* 

*Classic*, directed by Rob Marshall. Honors: Benjamin Dank Prize, the American Academy of Arts and Letters; Tolerance Prize, Kulturforum Europa; Paul Selvin Award, Writers Guild of America. Professional Affiliations: President of the Dramatists Guild; member, Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers; board of the New York Theatre Workshop. Wright is married to singer/songwriter David Clement.



**SCOTT FRANKEL** (*Music*) was nominated for Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his work on *Grey Gardens*, which ran at Playwrights Horizons before moving to Broadway. Since then, the show has been performed regularly across the country as well as internationally. He has also written the music for *War Paint* (Goodman Theatre),

*Far from Heaven* (Playwrights Horizons, Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Finding Neverland* (UK premiere, 2012), *Happiness* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Doll* (Ravinia Festival, Richard Rodgers Award) and *Meet Mister Future* (winner, Global Search for New Musicals), all with lyricist Michael Korie. Frankel is the recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award and the Frederick Loewe Award. He was the 2011-2012 Frances and William Schuman Fellow at The MacDowell Colony and a graduate of Yale University.

**MICHAEL KORIE** (*Lyrics*) is the recipient of the 2016 Marc Blitzstein Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His theatre lyrics to Scott Frankel's music include *Grey Gardens, Far From Heaven, Doll, Happiness, Meet Mister Future,* and *War Paint,* which premiered at Goodman Theatre this summer, book by Doug Wright. Their scores have been nominated for Tony and Drama Desk Awards, received the Outer Critics Circle Award, and have been produced



on Broadway, and at Playwrights Horizons, Lincoln Center, throughout the USA and abroad. His librettos to operas include *Hopper's Wife* and *Harvey Milk*, composed by Stewart Wallace, and *The Grapes of Wrath*, composed by Ricky Ian Gordon, produced at San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, New York

City Opera, BAM Next Wave Festival, Carnegie Hall and Disney Hall. He serves on the council of the Dramatists Guild, moderates the Fellows program and teaches lyric writing at Yale.



**MICHAEL WILSON** (*Director*) directed the 2013 Broadway revival (and the 2014 Center Theatre Group production) of Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*, for which Cicely Tyson won a Best Actress Tony Award. In 2010, he received Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his direction of Foote's nine-hour epic

*The Orphans' Home Cycle*. Other Broadway productions include the Tony nominated Gore Vidal's *The Best Man, Dividing the Estate* and *Enchanted April,* as well as the Roundabout Theatre Company revival of *Old Acquaintance*. Off-Broadway, his productions include the 2013 RTC revival of *Talley's Folly,* the Signature Theatre Company premiere of *The Old Friends* starring Betty Buckley and the 2015 STC revival of *Incident at Vichy.* Screen work includes the award-winning motion picture *Showing Roots;* his television film of *The Trip to Bountiful* was nominated for two Emmy Awards, a DGA Award and received four NAACP/Image Awards, including Outstanding Television Movie.

HOPE CLARKE (Choreography). New York: Free Man of Color (Lincoln Center Theater); Jelly's Last Jam (Broadway, Tony nomination, Drama-Logue, Calloway and NAACP Image Awards); Caroline, or Change (Broadway); The Tempest (Broadway). Off-Broadway: Spunk, The Colored Museum, The Caucasian Chalk *Circle* (The Public Theater); *The Odyssey* (Willow Cabin Theatre); Fly (Lincoln Center Institute). Regional: Resurrection (Philadelphia Theatre Company); Jesus Christ Superstar GOSPEL (Alliance Theatre); My Name is Still Alice, Cabaret, Mack & Mabel, Alice Revisited (Barrington Stage Company). Other Directing and Choreography Credits: Porgy and Bess, Cosi fan Tutti, The In-Gathering, Hallelujah, Baby!, Frida, South Pacific. Performance Credits: West Side Story, Purlie, Hallelujah, Baby! and Grind, as well as many other productions off-Broadway, in film and TV. Dance credits include Katherine Dunham Company, Talley Beatty, Louis Johnson, George Faison, Alvin Ailey American

Dance. She just finished working on *Fly* about the Tuskegee Airmen. She also directed and choreographed a new opera called *Imoinda* for Opera Ebony. Thanks to SDC.



**KEVIN STITES** (*Music Director/Conductor*) most recently conducted the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra with Kristin Chenoweth and served as Music Director/ pianist for *Starting Here, Starting Now* at the York Theatre. He conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra with Brian Stokes Mitchell at Disney Hall and

with Kristin Chenoweth at the Hollywood Bowl. Kevin served as Music Director for the 2014 and 2015 *Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall, the original cast reunion concert of *Titanic* at Avery Fisher Hall and the world premiere of Maury Yeston's *Death Takes a Holiday*. Broadway credits include *On The 20th Century* (revival), *South Pacific* (LCT), *Tale Of Two Cities, The Color Purple, Titanic, Sunset Boulevard, Children and Art, Les Misérables, Three Penny Opera, Fiddler on the Roof, Nine, Oklahomal, On the Town, 9 to 5* (additional music arrangements). Film/Television: Two PBS specials with Il Volo, *Rosie Live, Reefer Madness,* Letterman, Rosie, several Tony broadcasts. He is Music Director/pianist for Deborah Voigt's *Voigt Lessons.* 



**CHARLES SWAN** (*Associate Director/ Choreographer*). Training: Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, Broadway Theatre Project, Broadway Teachers Workshop, Sam Houston State University (cum laude). NBC: *Saturday Night Live* ("The Creep" digital short); Bay Street Theater: *Grey Gardens*; Alley Theatre: *Much Ado About* 

Nothing, A Christmas Carol; Stages Repertory Theatre: Altar Boyz, The Andrews Brothers; TUTS: The Music Man, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Yankee Doodle Dandy, Jesus Christ Superstar, TOMMY, Scrooge; Main Street Theater: Awake and Sing!, Oh Boy!, The Light in the Piazza; Houston Grand Opera: Show Boat, La Cenerentola and was seen in the national tour of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Charles is a proud member of Actors Equity Association, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and oversees the musical theatre program at Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Upcoming: Das Barbeque at Houston Grand Opera. www.charlestswan. com. Thank you, Michae!!

**JEFF COWIE** (*Scenic Design*) received the 2015 L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for his design of the Tony Award winning production of *The Trip to Bountiful*. Broadway: *Dividing the* 



*Estate* (Lincoln Center Theater). In 2010, he won a Drama Desk Award and the American Theatre Wing's Henry Hewes Award for his co-design for Horton Foote's nine-hour opus, *The Orphans' Home Cycle*. Off-Broadway: Roundabout Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons, Primary Stages, MCC and MTC, among others.

Regionally, the Alley, Guthrie, Goodman and Hartford Stage where he designed eight productions with Michael Wilson for *The Tennessee Williams Project.* For his visual art, Mr. Cowie has been awarded the Rockefeller/NEA Individual Artist Grant, the Dallas Museum of Art's Kimbrough Award, the Fellowship for Visual Art at the Museum Of Fine Arts, Houston and the Edward Albee Foundation Fellowship.



ILONA SOMOGYI (*Costume Design*). Center Theatre Group: *Marjorie Prime, Clybourne Park, Keep Your Pantheon.* Broadway: *Clybourne Park.* Off-Broadway: *Nice Fish, Body of an American, Gloria, Satchmo at the Waldorf, Dinner With Friends, My Name is Asher Lev, A Soldier's Tale* (Zankel Hall); *The Lying Lesson, Almost an Evening,* 

Scarcity (Atlantic); Maple and Vine, A Small Fire (Playwrights Horizons); Jerry Springer: The Opera (Carnegie Hall) and the original production of Wit. Recent Regional: Anything Goes (Goodspeed Opera House); Nice Fish (ART); Romeo & Juliet, The Crucible, Gem of the Ocean, Midsummer Night's Dream (Hartford Stage); King Hedley II, Smokey Joe's Café (Arena Stage); Richard III (OSF); Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Nice Fish, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Guthrie); Disgraced, 4000 Miles (Long Wharf), Julius Caesar (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); Disgraced, Good People (Huntington Theatre); Three Sisters, We Have Always Lived in the Castle and Passion Play (Yale Rep). Training and Faculty: Yale School of Drama.



HOWELL BINKLEY (Lighting Design). Broadway works include Hamilton (2016 Tony Award), Allegiance, Jesus Christ Superstar, After Midnight (2014 Tony nomination), How to Succeed... starring Daniel Radcliffe (2011 Tony nomination), West Side Story (2009 Tony nomination), Gypsy starring Patti LuPone, In The Heights

(2008 Tony nomination), *Avenue Q, The Full Monty, Parade, Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (1993 Tony nomination). Extensive regional and dance works include the Joffrey Ballet's *Billboards*, Co-Founder and Resident Lighting Designer for Parsons Dance. Proud recipient of the 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier Award and Canadian Dora Award for *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and the 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award, Outer Critics Circle and Tony Awards for *Jersey Boys*.

JON WESTON (Sound Design). Broadway: Amazing Grace; An American in Paris; On The 20th Century; You Can't Take It With You; The Bridges of Madison County; Big Fish; How to Succeed...; 13 The Musical; Les Misérables; The Color Purple; The Glass Menagerie; Caroline, or Change (AUDELCO Award); Nine; Imaginary Friends; Thoroughly Modern Millie; The Green Bird; It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues; On the Town; Company in concert at Lincoln Center; Man of La Mancha. Off-Broadway and Regional: The Last Five Years; Death Takes a Holiday; In Transit; Dangerous Beauty; Bloodsong of Love: The Rock 'N' Roll Spaghetti Western; Wonderland (Alley and Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center); Parade (Mark Taper Forum, directed by Rob Ashford); The First Wives Club (directed by Francesca Zambello); Rooms...a rock romance (directed by Scott Schwartz); A Little Night Music (L.A. Drama Critics Award); Himself & Nora; The Thing About Men; tick, tick...BOOM!; Bright Lights, Big City; Family Guy, Live! (Carnegie Hall).



JASON H. THOMPSON (Projection Design). Center Theatre Group: Chavez Ravine (Ovation Award), The Steward of Christendom, Venice (Ovation Award), This Beautiful City, Palomino, Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up, The Behavior of Broadus (Kirk Douglas Theatre/Sacred Fools). International: Tri Sestri (Vienna State

Opera), *Tarzan* and *Frozen: A Sing-Along Celebration* (Shanghai Disneyland). Key Projects: *Hopscotch* and *Invisible Cities* (The Industry); *Cage Songbooks* (Carnegie Hall); *Venice, The Great Immensity* (Public Theater); *Cunning Little Vixen* (Cleveland Orchestra); *Wingman* (Ars Nova); *Baby It's You!* (Broadway). Additionally, he has worked at a number of regional theatres including the Guthrie, KC Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Signature Theatre in D.C., Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory. Jason was the video consultant on the recent Petersen Automotive Museum renovation and has designed video content for *Stars on Ice* for the last 10 years. He is a member of USA Local 829. www.jasonhthompsondesign.com.

**PAUL HUNTLEY** (*Wig Design*). London-born Paul Huntley has worked on hundreds of Broadway shows since his 1972 arrival in New York, most memorably the original productions of *Amadeus, Cats, Evita, Les Misérables, Sweeney Todd, The Producers* and *Hairspray.* A recipient of Drama Desk and Tony Awards, he has also worked with the some of the most legendary leading ladies of the cinema, ranging from Bette Davis, Marlene Dietrich and Vivien Leigh to Jane Fonda, Glenn Close, Jessica Lange and Scarlett Johansson. Current Broadway includes *Fun Home*.

**STEWART/WHITLEY** (*Original Casting*). Duncan Stewart, CSA and Benton Whitley, CSA. Broadway/NY: *On the Town*, *Pippin, Chicago The Musical, La Cage aux Folles, Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812, The Band Wagon, Carnegie Hall Sings, Pageant.* West End/UK: *Thriller Live, Menier Chocolate Factory.* Tours: *Flashdance, Anything Goes, Bullets Over Broadway, Elf, We Will Rock You, Once, Duck Commander Musical.* Regional: American Repertory Theater, Alley Theatre, Bay Street Theater, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Royal Caribbean. Casting associate Andrea Zee, CSA. stewartwhitley.com.



**BETH LIPARI** (*Casting Director*). Since 2006, Beth Lipari has had the pleasure of working in the highest echelon of the TV and feature film world. Some recent casting highlights include *The Detour* (TBS), *Spring Awakening* (Broadway/The Wallis), *The City Of Conversation* (The Wallis), *The Lost Boy* (starring Virginia Madsen), *Fifty Shades* 

*Of Black* (IMG GLOBAL), *Villisca* (Black Box), UNT. Judah Miller (ABC/FOX). Beth is a proud member of Union 399 and the Casting Society of America. She is the recipient of the Media Access Awards and the Artios Awards. She is thrilled to be making her debut as a C.D. at the amazing Ahmanson Theatre. Thanks to Michael Wilson and Doug Baker for this wonderful opportunity.

**ROBERT BENNETT** (*Production Stage Manager*) is a graduate of the University of Michigan. His Broadway productions include The Trip To Bountiful, The Lyons, Stick Fly, Time Stands Still, Bent, I Love My Wife, Dancing at Lughnasa, The Nerd, Nicholas Nickelby, I Remember Mama (the musical), Macbeth, Nick & Nora, Awake And Sing!, American Buffalo, Desire Under the Elms and The Coast of Utopia. Tours: L.A. company of La Cage aux Folles, Sugar Babies, Evita, My Fat Friend, Grease, Shenandoah and Guys and Dolls. Off-Broadway: Peter Brook's The Cherry Orchard (NYC, Russia & Japan), Incident at Vichy, Inner Voices 1, 2 & 3, Groucho, and Gertrude Stein and a Companion. Artistic Associate and stage manager for the National Music Theater Conference at the O'Neill Theater Center. He has numerous credits in the event and conference arena. Bob served as general manager at BAM and as Vice-President of Stage Operations for Radio City Music Hall.

**DENISE YANEY** (Assistant Stage Manager) stage-managed the Tony Award-winning Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Other credits include A Delicate Balance, Time Stands Still, The Homecoming, A Moon for the Misbegotten, Redwood Curtain and As Is; Good People, The Columnist, In Real Life and Ripcord (Manhattan Theatre Club); Awake And Sing!, In The Next Room... and Morning's at Seven (Lincoln Center Theater); Major Barbara (Roundabout Theatre Company); Long Day's Journey into Night (Arizona Theatre Company); The Baltimore Waltz (Circle Rep, company member) and Grey Gardens last summer (Bay Street Theater).

### **CENTER THEATRE GROUP**



MICHAEL RITCHIE (*Artistic Director*) is in his 11th season as Center Theatre Group's Artistic Director, and has led over 190 productions to the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre stages including the premieres of six musicals that moved to Broadway – *The Drowsy Chaperone, Curtains, 13*,

*9 to 5: The Musical, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Leap of Faith* – and the Pulitzer Prize in Drama finalist *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.* 



**STEPHEN D. ROUNTREE** (*Managing Director*) joined Center Theatre Group last year as its new Managing Director. He was previously the President and CEO of The Music Center (2002- 2014) and concurrently the CEO of the Los Angeles Opera (2008-2012). He served the J. Paul Getty Trust for 22 years, starting in 1980 as Deputy Director of the

Getty Museum, then Director of the Getty Center Building Program, and in 1998, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Getty Trust.



**DOUGLAS C. BAKER** (*Producing Director*) is now in his 26th season at Center Theatre Group. He is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers. In May 2013 Doug received The Broadway

League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

JEFFREY UPAH (*General Manager, Ahmanson Theatre*) has worked in management at Center Theatre Group since 2006 on more than 50 musicals, plays and special events including both pre-Broadway productions and Broadway tours. Some of his favorites include *Follies, God of Carnage* and *The Black Rider* (having previously worked on Robert Wilson productions in Boston, Houston and Sao Paulo, Brazil). Prior to Center Theatre Group, he worked in various capacities at The Santa Fe Opera, Yale Repertory Theatre, American Repertory Theatre and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, among others.



**GORDON DAVIDSON** (*Founding Artistic Director*) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre —including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts and a Guggenheim fellowship.

*The Kentucky Cycle* and *Angels in America* (Part One) won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (*Angels in America* won). In 1989 Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.



L-R: Rachel York and Betty Buckley. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

#### **ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR GREY GARDENS**

Assistant Causia Dasiman	King A Taluasa
Assistant Scenic Designer	
Assistant Costume Designer	Kathryn Poppen
Associate Lighting Designer	Amanda Zieve
Associate Sound Designer	Josh Millican
Associate Projection Designer	Kaitlyn Pietras
Moving Light Programmer	Colin Scott
Audio Mixer	Daniel Lundberg
Hair/Wig Associate	Inga Thrasher
Associate Conductor, Rehearsal Pianist	Gerald Sternbach
Synthesizer Programmer	Randy Cohen
Studio Teacher	Adam Bennett
Dialect Coach for Ms. Buckley	Stephen Gabis
Dialect Coach for Company	Tracy Winters
Stage Management PA	Jereme Kyle Lewis
Music Department PA	Thomas Feng
Assistant Director/SDCF Observer	
Additional Casting	Meg Fister

#### CREDITS

Scenery fabrication by F&D Scene Changes Ltd. Costumes provided by Center Theatre Group Costume Shop and additional staff: Draper - Charlotte Stratton; First Hand - Pamela Walt; Stitchers - Lydia Harmon, Bert Henert, Suzanne Mayberry, Ashley Rigg. Original costumes by Barry Sellars, Pat Van Horn and Bay Street Theater Costume Shop. Millinery by Lynne Mackey Studio. Fabric Printing by Silvia's Costumes. Minister Norman Vincent Peale's robe provided by Marble Collegiate Church - Fifth Avenue, NYC. Lighting equipment provided by 4Wall Entertainment. Sound equipment provided by PRG Audio. Projection equipment provided by SenovvA. Rehearsal and production photography by Craig Schwartz.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Cathy Brighenti, Andy Einhorn, Patrick Herold, Eliza James, Jerry Torre, Robert Lewis Vaughan, Sam Vawter, William Waldrop, Robert Wierzel and the staff of the Bay Street Theater - Scott Schwartz, Artistic Director, and Tracy Mitchell, Executive Director.

#### Little Edie Beale's Brooch

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The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. This theatre operates under an arrangement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine Operators, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC: Stage Crew Local 33; Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706.



SDC

UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS represents the designers and scenic painters for the American Theatre.

- The Director and Choreographer are members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, an independent national labor union.
- The Musicians employed in this production are members of the 47 American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.
- ATPAM The Press Agents, Company and House Managers employed in this production are represented by the Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers.

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), LA Stage Alliance, National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).



Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management. Patrons with disabilities: wheelchair seating is available in a variety of theatre locations. When ordering tickets, please indicate any special needs. For our hearing-impaired guests, the theatre is equipped with listening devices; please contact an usher for assistance.



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KELLEY KIRKPATRICK	Associate Artistic Director
DIANE RODRIGUEZ	Associate Artistic Director
LINDSAY ALLBAUGH	Associate Producer
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Center Theatre Group would like to thank its exceptional staff for their ongoing commitment, dedication and extraordinary efforts.

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