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Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

# WRITE A PLAY

## Playbill

# THE FLYING PENGUIN

& OTHER WINNING PLAYS  
BY YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS



# WRITE A PLAY

## THE FLYING PENGUIN & OTHER WINNING PLAYS BY YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

### CAST

**Hannah Habisreitering**

**Nick James**

**Ava Spinelli Mastrone**

**Julia Ruggirello**

**Dellan Short**

**Director**

**Caroline Saldivar**

**Music Director**

**Jim Prosser**

**Scenic Designer**

**Casey Seiler**

**Costume Designer**

**Chelsea Allen**

**Lighting Designer**

**Andrew Gray**

**Sound Designer**

**Naomi Marin**

**Props and Paint Designer**

**Sarah DeSmith**

**Stage Management Intern**

**Tori Martinson**

*"This anthology of plays takes us on a journey and gives us a glimpse into the creative minds of our children – their heartfelt stories share themes of acceptance, bravery, resilience, love, learning, and laughter. Young people are not afraid to write about anything; they do not edit their imaginations. These plays reaffirm our belief in what childhood is: a world of purity, beauty, heart and sometimes truths we all need to hear."*

*- Caroline Saldivar, Director of Children's Theatre*

# ARTIST PROFILES



### HANNAH HABISREITERING

Is an acting apprentice making her FST debut in this wonderful show! She recently graduated from COM in Texas City, Texas, with an associate degree in theatre performance and will be attending SHSU in the fall to receive her BFA in theatre education. A Texas native, she has had a great time exploring everything Sarasota has to offer. This show brings her so much joy, especially for these young playwrights, and she hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed bringing it to life!



### NICK JAMES

A proud member of the acting apprentice program and a recent graduate of Columbus State University's BFA Theatre Performance program, Nick has appeared in both professional and collegiate productions. His past credits include *Holes* (Mr. Sir), *Rock of Ages* (Jakeith/Mayor/Ensemble), *Three Little Birds* (Dr. Bird), *The Color Purple* (Pastor/Adam), *Deck The Halls*, *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* (Sheldon) and selected performances of *Off The Charts* at FST. Follow him on Instagram: @huntjamrocks.



### AVASPINELLIMASTRONE

Originally hails from Stamford, Connecticut, and is thrilled to join FST's Acting Apprentice program. She is a recent graduate of Baldwin Wallace University with a degree in Acting and Directing. Past Productions at BW include *Measure for Measure* (Marianna/Justice), *The*

*Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen Fairfax), *The Comedy of Errors* (Emilia), and *Boeing Boeing* (Gabriella)! Ava has worked with the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Chagrin Arts Centre, Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, and Great Lakes Theatre. FST credit: *Deck The Halls* and *Junie B. Jones: The Musical*, and select performances of *Off The Charts*.



**JULIA RUGGIRELLO** is a recent graduate of Kent State University's BFA Musical Theater Program and is so excited to be an Acting Apprentice with Florida Studio Theatre! Recent credits include

*Aesop's Fables*, *Junie B. Jones* in *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* (FST), Ensemble #3 U/S in *Waitress* (FST), Maureen U/S and Alexi Darling in *Rent* (Kent State University), Featured Dancer in *Kiss Me, Kate!* (People's Bank Theater), and Soupy Sue in *Urinetown* (Kent State University). Julia is thrilled to be in Sarasota and can't wait to keep growing and learning as a performer!



### DELLAN SHORT

Is a current Acting Fellow with FST who made his FST debut in the Burdick New Play Festival reading of *Advice* by Brent Askari. Some of his previous credits include *Junie B.*

*Jones: The Musical*, *Off The Charts!* and *Deck The Halls* at FST; *Everybody* at the Alliance Theatre; *9 To 5*, *Living Out*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Tempest*, and *The Secret Garden*.

# ARTIST PROFILES

## CAROLINE SALDIVAR

(Director) has been at FST for 9 seasons as the Director of Children's Theatre. Prior to that she served as the Associate Artistic Director at TheatreWorksUSA in New York City developing and casting over 100 productions including Off-Broadway and National Tours. At FST, in addition to her work in Children's Theatre, she also manages the Acting Apprentice company.

## CASEY SEILER

(Scenic Designer) is the Assistant Technical Director at FST. He is a Florida native and has worked with the Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center as a set designer, builder, and painter on shows such as *Advice* (FST), *Madagascar*, *Jungle Book*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. In addition to his work with the Patel Conservatory, Casey has worked as an Entertainment Technician at Legoland Florida.

## ANDREW GRAY

(Lighting Designer) Originally from Scotland, Andrew graduated from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) in 2012 and has been designing/programming professionally for over a decade. Notable credits include: *Giant Spectacular* (Liverpool Capital of Culture), *Mamma Mia!* (Surflight Theatre), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Beobe Productions), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Parker Snell Productions), and *Lost & Found* (BP productions). Select FST credits include: *Bad Books*, *Divas*, *The Heart Sellers*, *59th Street Bridge*, *Off The Charts*, *The Flip Side*, *Ugly Lies The Bone*, *Pictures From Home*, *Take It To The Limit*, *Up On The Roof*, *Creedence Clearwater Remixed!*, *Divas Three*, *The Surfer Boys*, *Shear Madness*, *Paralyzed*, *Reel Music*, *The Last Match*, and *A Place In The Sun*.

## CHELSEA ALLEN

(Costume Designer) is a costume, wig, and makeup designer from Nashville, Tennessee.

She recently relocated from Las Vegas to become the Costume Shop Manager here at FST. Her credits include shows by Cirque Du Soleil, Spiegelworld, The Utah Shakespeare Festival, Great River Shakespeare Festival, and The Food Network. She is also a freelance muralist and painter who is excited to bring her love of costuming and art to FST. FST Credit: *Bad Books*, *Divas*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Deck The Halls*, *59th Street Bridge*, *Waitress* and *Off The Charts*.

## NAOMI MARIN

(Sound Designer) is an alum of Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, where she got her B.A. in theatrical design. Originally from Columbia, Maryland, she has been involved in theater since her freshman year of high school and is beyond excited to be at FST. Her FST credits include *Red Riding Hood*, *Deck the Halls*, *We're Doomed*, *Out of Bounds*, *Treble in Paradise*, *A Night in November*, *The White Chip*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Advice*, and *Bad Books*.

## SARAH DESMITH

(Props and Paint Designer) is the Paint and Props Supervisor at FST, hailing from Worthington, Minnesota. She recently graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead with a B.A. in English Writing and a directed studies minor in Theatre Arts. She came down to Florida last June and interned at FST as part of FST's Professional Training Program. FST credits include: *Junie B. Jones*, *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein*, *Aesop's Fables*, and *Advice*.

## TORI MARTINSON

(Stage Management Intern) is a alum of Northern Arizona University, where she received her BA in stage management. She has been thrilled to work on FST's *Off The Charts*. Other credits include: *Walking Through Grief*, and *Hedda Gabler*. She is excited to be joining FST's 2024-2025 season as a stage management intern.

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AGES 5-17

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*"My daughter loves coming to FST. She likes to teach us all the acting games she learned in class. She is always excited to tell us about all the fun she had."*  
-April, Summer Camp Parent



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# WRITE A PLAY

***"In the creative eyes of a child, a story comes to life through the WRITE A PLAY program held by FST!"***

- Jodie Austin, Toledo Blade Elementary Teacher

***"What an important, exciting program. Important for young playwrights to channel their imagination into the magic of theater. Exciting for participating theatres to remember the first sparks that started us on fire to do what we do."***

- Mark St. Germain, Playwright

***"I have been honored to participate in WRITE A PLAY for the past twelve years. There truly is nothing like this program in our county and it's a tradition I am proud to support. Students lives are impacted by being motivated to think and problem solve creatively. Students never forget working with the teaching artists and some may grow up to become teaching artists too. THANK YOU FST!!"***

- Freda Williams, Pineview School Teacher and 2016 WAP Educator of the Year

***"On behalf of the City of Sarasota Commission and the citizens of the community, we would like to congratulate Florida Studio Theatre on the WRITE A PLAY program. The City of Sarasota celebrates and encourages a wide variety of art forms and commends the efforts of Florida Studio Theatre to encourage the unique form of creative writing, which is playwriting. Florida Studio Theatre has brought bright, young playwrights from around the world to a theatre where their work can be staged and enjoyed by the community, students, families, and actors. Congratulations!"***

- Willie Charles Shaw, City of Sarasota Commissioner

***"The WRITE A PLAY program is a wonderful and vital program for kids. I am amazed at what kids write about when given the tools to express themselves. Watching plays written by young kids that deal with issues like school bullying, family struggles, and suicide is incredibly moving. I believe Florida Studio Theatre's WRITE A PLAY program is an indispensable part of a child's education."***

- Mark Brown, Playwright

***"As a participant for over 10 years, I am happy to share my students' as well as my perspective on the WRITE A PLAY program: It provides a chance to facilitate the students' creativity and imagination. It motivates the students to participate, put in the extra effort and develop a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. The plays allow a rare glimpse into the students' minds & feelings. As they quite often write on major events that take place in Israel, we can observe how they feel about them and how they are being affected by them."***

- Tami Philosopher, Shelanu Elementary Teacher in Tel Mond, Israel and 2017 WAP Educator of the Year

# WRITE A PLAY

**The WRITE A PLAY Program would not be possible without the valuable and generous support of the following individuals and organizations:**

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