



spotlight

May/June 2021 \$5.00

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VIRTUAL
June 14-20, 2021

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Chris Serface
AACT President

We are just weeks away from Virtual AACTFest 2021! The excitement is brewing, and I'm continually amazed by the great line-up of workshops, special events, keynote speakers, sponsors, awards, and performances that await us. And on top of all of that, the design competition, open mic hour, and exhibitors.

Virtual AACTFest 2021 is a time for us all to celebrate. This last year has been a testament to the resiliency of theatre and the people who make it happen. You are the reason that we can all see the lights starting to warm up our stages, and the great things that are being created.

We all miss in-person theatre. We miss seeing the patrons, hearing their laughter, and watching them smile. We miss rehearsals, tech week (hard to believe, I know), performances, and strikes. We miss giving each other that celebratory hug or high-five after an amazing production. And yet, bit by bit, we are seeing it come back. Watching my friends and colleagues post pictures of productions, as their states open back up, has been uplifting.

It's not too late to register for Virtual AACTFest 2021. Come meet with your fellow theatre-makers, and get ready to become better at what you do. If you are allowed to do so in your area, you might even host an AACTFest viewing session at your theatre. AACT member theatres can use their organizational membership to register up to three representatives at the member rate, and if your theatre has a group of 10 or more, they can register at the individual member rate.

No matter how you choose to participate, you'll be sharing the amazing festival experience with hundreds of dedicated theatre folks like yourself.

Until next time, stay healthy, stay safe, and continue doing your part to get us back on the road to reopening!

Best,
Chris Serface

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Jared Sakren, Producing Artistic Director
6th Street Playhouse, Santa Rosa, California

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A national festival with a look and feel unlike anything you have seen before, this AACTFest will celebrate stories of resiliency, demonstrating how you can move from survive to thrive, as it showcases and celebrates the best of community theatre in America

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AACT National Awards

The 2020 and 2021 AACT National Awards will be presented during Virtual AACTFest 2021, Saturday, June 19

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Youth Virtual Conference 2021, July 12-16

The AACT Youth Theatre Conference is a week-long opportunity for youth to discover paths to leadership in their community theatres. The conference cultivates individual interests, as well as connecting youth from across the nation. Open to students ages 12-18

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On the Cover

Virtual AACTFest 2021 takes place June 14 – 20, 2021. Join AACT for this exciting festival with 12 National Company productions and adjudications, sensational keynotes, educational workshops, design competition, networking with fellow theatre enthusiasts, and much more.

Artwork by Amy Scheidegger at Rock & Roar Creative (rockandroarcreative.com/)

Contacting AACT

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Fort Worth, TX 76185
817-732-3177
info@aaact.org

AACT welcomes *Spotlight* input and requests for advertising rates. Contact David Cockerell at david@aaact.org to submit content. Contact Darlene DeLorenzo at darlene@aaact.org for advertising rates and specs. David and Darlene are also available at the phone number above.



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AACT Board

Listed are 2020-2021 Officers

Chris Serface, *President*
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Sara Phoenix, *Executive VP*
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Jim Walker, *VP Festivals*
Aberdeen, SD (2021)

Frank Peot, *Secretary*
Sun Prairie, WI (2021)

Michael D. Fox, *Treasurer*
North Salt Lake, UT (2021)

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Tupelo, MS (2022)

Sharon Burum
Duncan, OK (2021)

Steven Butler
Gainesville, FL (2022)

Ron Cameron-Lewis
Ontario, Canada (2022)

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Martha Cherbini
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Bob Frame
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Kristofer Geddie
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McMinnville, OR (2021)

Kristi Quinn
Dakota City, NE (2023)

Carole Ries
Topeka, KS (2021)

Chris Serface
Tacoma, WA (2022)

Jennifer Van Bruggen-Hamilton
Toledo, OR (2023)

Jim Walker
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Region Representatives

I Beverley Lord
Foxborough, MA (2023)

II Joan Luther
Naples, NY (2021)

III Christi Thomas
Sidney, OH (2021)

IV-A Lynn Nelson
Tupelo, MS (2022)

IV-B Kristy Meanor
Wetumpka, AL (2022)

V Jamie Ulmer
Beatrice, NE (2025)

VI Sally Barnes
Broken Arrow, OK (2021)

VII Donna Fisher
Casper, WY (2021)

VIII TBD

IX Jon Douglas Rake
Tacoma, WA (2021)

X Dane Winters
Germany (US Army) (2021)

Upcoming Events**AACT Summer Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday, May 22
9 AM (Pacific), 10 AM (Mountain), 11 AM (Central),
Noon (Eastern)

The AACT Board of Directors Meeting will be held May 22, 2021, via Zoom. The AACT Board, Committees, Task Forces, and Teams will meet virtually for all 2021 AACT Summer Meetings.

Board of Directors will receive a unique invitational link directly from the AACT Office.

Observers: The Board of Directors meeting is open for all members to observe. The meeting can be accessed by this link: aact.org/summer

AACT Committee Meetings will all be held virtually before May 14, 2021. AACT staff will coordinate with each committee chair to set up meeting times.

Committee Reports are due May 15, 2021. Please submit reports using the following webforms:

- Report on Region: aact.org/report-region
- Board/Committee Report: aact.org/board-report

Board Nominations: The election of the new Board Members at Large was conducted through an online ballot in April, and those selected will be installed at the May 22 meeting.

NOTE: Before joining the meeting, please review the AACT Virtual Meeting Rules and Procedures at aact.org/rules

Questions regarding Meetings: Contact Quiana Clark-Roland at quiana@aact.org, or call 817-732-3177, or contact AACT President Chris Serface at chris@tacomalittletheatre.com

AACT Staff

Quiana Clark-Roland, Executive Director
David Cockerell, Marketing/Communications Director
Kathy Pingel, NewPlayFest Dramaturge,
Education Coordinator
Ron Ziegler, Festivals Coordinator, Education Coordinator
Karen Matheny, Membership Coordinator
Winston Daniels, Operations and Events Assistant

Jill Patchin, Corporate Partners Manager
Darlene DeLorenzo, Vendor Services Coordinator
Stephen Peithman, Webmaster /
Spotlight Assistant Editor
Susan Austin, NewPlayFest Coordinator
Mary Jo DeNolf, AACTFest Production Manager

Spotlight

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Virtual AACTFest 2021

June 14-20
aact.org/21

AACT Virtual Youth Theatre Conference 2021

July 12-16
aact.org/youth

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Welcome to Virtual AACTFest 2021

Celebrating Resilience—Strengthening Resolve

June 14 – 20

For many years, **AACTFest** has been the culmination of a two-year cycle of community theatre productions across the country, with 12 selected to perform as part of the national festival. These, plus educational workshops, social events, and networking opportunities, conclude with a festival awards presentation.

Virtual AACTFest 2021 will maintain the national festival's emphasis on artistic excellence in performances, adjudication, and education, but with a look and feel unlike anything you have seen before.

This AACTFest will celebrate stories of resiliency, demonstrating how you can move from survive to thrive, as it showcases and celebrates the best of community theatre in America. Supporting you through this evolutionary journey are 12 award-winning productions and adjudications, seven keynote speakers, educational workshops, AACT Design Competition and adjudication, virtual vendor exhibit booths with industry demos, Silent Auction, Open Mic, AACTChats, virtual social events and networking opportunities, as well as AACT 2021 National Awards presentations and the Festival Awards Ceremony.

"AACT staff and board are excited about how it is all coming together," says AACT Executive Director, Quiana Clark Roland. "We have a caliber of keynotes and speakers never offered before. Albeit virtual, this festival is going to be unlike any we have had before! AACT



has worked diligently to tap into our national and international network of theatre artists and professionals to bring the best there is. If you have not attended AACTFest before, this is the year to experience it!"

Register for Virtual AACTFest 2021 at aact.org/21. Full Virtual Festival Passes and single-tickets are available. Enjoy a week of National Company performances, live adjudications, workshops, keynotes, exhibitors, the Festival Awards Ceremony, and more.

AACT Member theatres can use their organizational membership to register up to three individuals at the member rate. Casts and crews of the National Companies can also register for the full festival at a special discounted rate of \$185.



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Virtual AACTFest 2021 Schedule

Times are listed in Eastern Time Zone

- Keynotes
- National Company Performances and Adjudications
- Workshops and Panels
- AACTChat

Monday, June 14


3 – 4pm	Virtual AACTFest 2021 Opening Ceremony
4 – 5pm	AACTChat: “Wow” Shows and Hidden Gems
4 – 5pm	Demystifying AACT Adjudication
4 – 5pm	The 5-Step Plan for Virtual Event Marketing Success
4 – 5pm	Leveraging Technology to Promote Your Theatre
5:15 – 6:15pm	Youth Leadership Panel: Voices from the Future
5:15 – 6:15pm	Ten Steps to Half a Million
5:15 – 6:15pm	“A Chat with Ken Davenport,” Broadway Producer
6:15 – 7pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
7pm	Keynote Address – Jeff Calhoun

Tuesday, June 15

12 – 12:45pm	Daily Opening Message – Welcome to Tuesday, Day 2
12:45 – 1:15pm	“A Chat with Tim Pettolina,” House Manager for Broadway’s <i>Hamilton</i>
12:45 – 1:45pm	Courting Corporate Sponsorships? Make Your Theatre Irresistible
12:45 – 1:45pm	The Challenge and Power of Youth-Devised Theatre
2 – 3pm	AACTChat: Unlikely Partnerships
2 – 3pm	Theatre Educators Panel: New Programing, New Faces
2 – 3pm	Without Light, It’s Dark
3:15 – 4:15pm	“A Chat with Peter Colley,” International Playwright
3:15 – 4:15pm	A Directing Intensive: Cultivating the Most from Script, Cast, and Collaborators
3:15 – 4:15pm	Uncomfortable Conversations with a Volunteer Actor
3:15 – 4:15pm	A Comic Actor’s Formula: Timing + Truth = Laughs
4:30 – 5:30pm	Designing a Show with New Eyes
4:30 – 5:30pm	May I Touch You? Body Autonomy in the Costume Shop
4:30 – 5:30pm	No More Lines: Reinventing the Box Office, Post-COVID
6:15 – 7pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
7 – 8pm	Keynote Address – Kristofer Geddie
8:15 – 9:15pm	INNOVAtheatre , Cincinnati, Ohio Ordinary Days , music and lyrics by Adam Gwon

continued on the next page ►

“Just when you think there’s nothing new under the sun (or inside the snow globe), along comes a Christmas show that reminds even the Scrooge-iest soul how rewarding holiday theater can be.”
The San Diego Union-Tribune



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PLAYS:

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The Incredible Jungle Journey of Fenda Maria

Casa Blue—The Last Moments in the Life of Freda Kahlo

Vampire Monologues

War of the Worlds

Scripts, Information, and Licensing at:
summerwindproductions.com

Virtual AACTFest Schedule continued from page 9

Wednesday, June 16

10 – 10:15am	Daily Opening Message – Welcome to Wednesday, Day 3
10:30 – 11am	“A Chat with Letia Clouston,” Director of Horror and Hallmark Movies
10:30 – 11am	Playwright’s Pitch Room
10:30 – 11:30am	Theatre as a Tool for Change: Creating Meaningful Bonds through Theatre Education
10:30 – 11:30am	Direct from Portugal! Teatro Imedio's Playback Theatre's Improvisation Techniques
11:45 – 12:15pm	Adjudication: INNOVAtheatre, <i>Ordinary Days</i> , music and lyrics by Adam Gwon
12:30 – 1:30pm	AACT Chat: If You Build It, They Will Come
12:30 – 1:30pm	Scenic Painting Demonstration: Getting Started, Then Kicking It Up a Notch
12:30 – 1:30pm	“I Really Need This Part” Auditioning Techniques
12:30 – 1:30pm	MTI Licensing and Streaming
1:45 – 2:45pm	Creating a Unified Approach: Productive Conversations with Designers to Maximize Your Concept
1:45 – 2:45pm	Acting The Song with Broadway’s Lauren Molina
1:45 – 2:45pm	Adapt and Pivot: How to Survive in a Post-Pandemic Marketing Environment
4 – 5:05pm	Stage Left Theater Association , Spokane, Washington <i>Lonely Planet</i> , by Steven Dietz
5:15 – 6:20pm	Theatre Tuscaloosa , Tuscaloosa, Alabama <i>Love and Cheese Toast</i> , by Cooper Shattuck
6:20 – 7pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
7 – 8pm	Keynote Address – Rob McClure

Thursday, June 17

10:15 – 10:30am	Daily Opening Message – Welcome to Thursday, Day 4
10:30 – 11:30am	Artistic Director’s Panel – Choosing a Forward- Thinking Season
10:30 – 11:30am	Senior Theatre Resources
10:30 – 11:30am	“A Chat with Wesley Whatley,” Creative Director of Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
12:15 – 1:15pm	Adjudications Stage Left Theater Association, <i>Lonely Planet</i> , by Steven Dietz Theatre Tuscaloosa, <i>Love and Cheese Toast</i> , by Cooper Shattuck
2:30 – 3:30pm	Q & A with Jeff Calhoun: Universal Directing Challenges
6:30 – 7pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
7 – 8pm	Keynote Address – Chilina Kennedy
8:20 – 9:25pm	Artists Collaborative Theatre , Elkhorn City, Kentucky <i>Blood Song, The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoys</i> , by Chelsea Marcantel
9:30 – 10:35pm	SHAPE Players , Mons, Belgium <i>Holy Days</i> , by Sally Nemeth
10:40 – 11:45pm	Players de Noc , Escanaba, Michigan <i>Jerry’s Brain</i> , by J.R. Spalding

Friday, June 18

10:15 – 10:30am	Daily Opening Message – Welcome to Friday, Day 5
10:30 – 11:30am	Costumer's Panel: Mindful Changes, Smaller Budgets, Greater Awareness
10:30 – 11:30am	AACTChat: Outreach to New Talent
10:30 – 11:30am	Professional Actors Roundtable
10:30 – 11:30am	Rock the House! Tap Dance with Kristyn Pope's Motivated Movers
12 – 1:30pm	Adjudications Artists Collaborative Theatre, <i>Blood Song</i> , <i>The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoys</i> by Chelsea Marcantel SHAPE Players, <i>Holy Days</i> , by Sally Nemeth Players de Noc, <i>Jerry's Brain</i> , by J.R. Spalding
1:45 – 2:45pm	BIPOC Panel
1:45 – 2:45pm	Re-Opening With Innovation: Digital Marketing Strategy
3 – 4pm	Open Mic Hour
4:30 – 5:45pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
6 – 7pm	Keynote Address – Mandy Moore
7:10 – 8:15pm	Windham Actors Guild , Windham, New Hampshire <i>How to be a Good Son</i> , by Julia Cho
8:20 – 9:25pm	The Studio Theatre , Little Rock, Arkansas <i>Hillary and Clinton</i> , by Lucas Hnath
9:30 – 10:35pm	Shawnee Little Theatre , Shawnee Oklahoma <i>A Doll's House, Part 2</i> , by Lucas Hnath

Saturday, June 19

10:15 – 10:30am	Daily Opening Message – Welcome to Saturday, Day 6
10:30 – 11:30am	Ryan VanDenBoom: Motivated Movement + <i>Hamilton</i> Choreography Workshop
10:30 – 11:30am	Design Competition Adjudication
11:45am – 1pm	AACT National Awards Presentations
1 – 2:15pm	Adjudications Windham Actors Guild, <i>How to be a Good Son</i> , by Julia Cho The Studio Theatre, <i>Hillary and Clinton</i> , by Lucas Hnath Shawnee Little Theatre, <i>A Doll's House, Part 2</i> , by Lucas Hnath
3 – 4pm	A Path Forward: BIPOC Diversity and Inclusion in the Performing Arts
3 – 4pm	AACTChat: Handing Over the Reins
3 – 4pm	AACT NewPlayFest Dramaturgy
3 – 4pm	Setting the Table: Creating Realistic Faux Food for the Stage
5:30 – 6pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
6 – 7pm	Keynote Address – Frank Galati
7:10 – 8:15pm	South City Theatre , Pelham Alabama <i>Collected Stories</i> , by Donald Margulies
8:20 – 9:25pm	Bellingham Theatre Guild , Bellingham, Washington <i>The Harry and Sam Dialogues</i> , by Karen Ellison

9:30 – 10:35pm **The Lexington Players**, Windsor, Connecticut
The Mountaintop, by Katori Hall

Sunday, June 20

11:45am – 12pm	Daily Opening Message - Welcome to Sunday, Day 7
12 – 1:30pm	Adjudications South City Theatre, <i>Collected Stories</i> , by Donald Margulies Bellingham Theatre Guild, <i>The Harry and Sam Dialogues</i> , by Karen Ellison The Lexington Players, <i>The Mountaintop</i> , by Katori Hall
5:15 – 6pm	Evening Welcome/Social Hour
6 – 7pm	Keynote Address – Phil Hernandez
7 – 8:15pm	AACTFest 2021 Awards and Social Hour

The Virtual AACTFest 2021 Schedule is subject to change.
Check the updated schedule on the Whova app or at aact.org/21.

AACT will be utilizing the **Whova** laptop/mobile app to keep you abreast of all activities during Virtual AACTFest 2021. This full-featured app will be available two weeks prior to the festival. Network, build your profile, check out all events, and set your schedule accordingly. Registrants will be sent an invitation to the app as soon as it goes live.

A link to download the Whova app can be found at aact.org/21. ♦



Virtual AACTFest 2021 National Companies



INNOVAtheatre
Cincinnati, Ohio
innovatheatre.com

Ordinary Days
by Adam Gwon

Ordinary Days is about four people who are struggling to find their purpose and connection in their lives. Little do they know that with a mere shift in perspective, these struggles are what makes them part of such a bigger picture—which reminds us how we are all connected even if it is just through a place.



Alex Ross, Bonnie Emmer, Jordan Fredericks, and Maddie Vaughn in Ordinary Days

INNOVAtheatre was created in 2017 by a small group of friends who wanted to challenge the topics of mainstream theatre. They worked to utilize talent that sometimes gets overlooked and discriminated against. INNOVAtheatre was designed to showcase unexpected talent, while putting a spin on the traditional theatre experience audi-

ences have come to expect. Embracing diversity in every way, INNOVAtheatre is a place where artists are free to take artistic risks to create work that is cutting-edge and made accessible to everyone. The INNOVAtheatre vision is: Innovation through inclusion, exploration, and the fusing of the known and unexpected.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Warren	Jordan Fredericks
Deb	Bonnie Emmer
Jason	Alex Ross
Claire	Anna Masla

Director	Jacqlyn Schott
Producer	Denise A Schnieders
Music Director	Matthew Nassida
Piano	Mathew Nassida
Sound	Glenn Bladh
Lights	Farley Norman

Ordinary Days is produced by special arrangement with R&H Theatricals.

Originally Produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company - Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Harold Wolpert, Managing Director; Julie C. Levy, Executive Director, as part of Roundabout Underground at the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre.

The INNOVAtheatre production of *Ordinary Days*, by Adam Gwon, is sponsored in part by BookTix.

***Ordinary Days* is scheduled to be broadcast Tuesday, June 15, 8:15pm**

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Stage Left Theater
Spokane, Washington
StageLeftTheater.org

Lonely Planet
by Steven Dietz

Jody confronts his best friend Carl, who has been bringing seemingly random chairs into Jody's map store. Jody hasn't left his shop in some time, paralyzed with fear of a growing worldwide epidemic looming large. Carl urges Jody to leave the store and to engage in his life.

Stage Left Theater is the Inland Northwest's premier, progressive, non-profit theater. Stage Left incorporated in 2013 as a performance space for political, intellectual, and social stimulation. It seeks to broaden the involvement of the general population by engaging issues of topical value, and stimulating the analysis and discussion of the structure and goals of society. Normally, producing six mainstage productions, four readers theater shows, and a variety of new works festivals every season, during the pandemic, Stage Left has been producing one-person shows in an online streaming format.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Jody Robert Tombari
Carl Lukas Lantz

Director Thomas Heppler
Stage Manager/Backstage Crew Mary George
Scenic Design/Backstage Crew Jeremy Whittington
Lighting Design John Bongard
Light Board Operator Elizabeth Kitzig



Robert Tombari and Lukas Lantz in *Lonely Planet*

Lonely Planet is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Lonely Planet was originally written for Michael Winters and Laurence Ballard, and produced by A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle. *Lonely Planet* was originally produced by Northlight Theatre, Evanston, Illinois.

The Stage Left Theater production of *Lonely Planet*, by Steven Dietz, is sponsored in part by Dramatists Play Service, a division of Broadway Licensing.

***Lonely Planet* is scheduled to be broadcast Wednesday, June 16, 4pm**

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National Companies



Theatre Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
theatretusc.com

Love and Cheese Toast
by Cooper Shattuck

In 1950s Alabama, a White bride-to-be upsets the apple cart when she plans to invite her beloved Black housekeeper to her wedding. Inspired by the playwright's family history, this funny, poignant story explores the complex and often dysfunctional family dynamics created by the barriers of racism.

Theatre Tuscaloosa has been entertaining, engaging, and educating audiences in West Alabama for more than 50 years. In residence at Shelton State Community College, Alabama's Community College of the Fine Arts, Theatre Tuscaloosa produces an annual season that includes five mainstage plays/musicals, two second stage plays, one all-student production, and a series of educational workshops and camps known as Theatre Tuscaloosa Academy. Theatre Tuscaloosa has been an AACT member theatre since 2000, and has been actively involved in its state and regional community theatre festivals since 2017. This is Theatre Tuscaloosa's first opportunity to present a show at the national festival.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Mary Sarah Kathryn Bonds
Charlie/Dick Gary Wise
Young Judy Layla Kahn-Hickman
Annie Mae Norquina Rieves
Stella Kathy Wilson
Roland Ernie Turley
Older Judy Lisa Waldrop Shattuck
Mike Taril Slater



Ernie Turley, Layla Kahn-Hickman, and Kathy Wilson in Love & Cheese Toast

Director Tina Turley
Stage Manager Mitchell Morin
Lighting & Scenic Design Wheeler Kincaid
Costume Design Jeanette Waterman
Hair & Make-up Ava Buchanan

Love and Cheese Toast is produced by special arrangement with Cooper Shattuck

Love and Cheese Toast is scheduled to be broadcast on Wednesday, June 16 at 5:15pm



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**Artists Collaborative Theatre**

Elkhorn City, Kentucky

facebook.com/ACTheatre1/

Blood Song: The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoy

by Chelsea Marcantel

In the late 1800s, the quiet Tug River Valley on the border of West Virginia and Kentucky was rocked by violence, conspiracy, and star-crossed romance. Go back in time and experience the famous Hatfield & McCoy feud firsthand, as told by the characters who lived it.

Artists Collaborative Theatre (ACT) is an all-volunteer community theatre located in Elkhorn City, Kentucky. Incorporated in 2001, ACT built its company focusing on quality with local talent. ACT features a year-round, balanced season of seven productions per year. ACT's mission is to create, promote, present, and advance cultural exposure to and training in the performing arts for area residents and visitors, and to provide educational experiences of our mountain Appalachian heritage through a collaborative effort.



Carl "Skeeter" Smith, Cameron Fields, Jason Justice, Mason Lowe, Caitlyn Justice, Kaidynce Hackney, Tara Gooslin, Erin Rudd in Blood Song: The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoy

Cast (in order of appearance):

Patty McCoy	Kayla Gooslin
Harmon McCoy	Jason Justice
Jim Vance	Dave Sykes
Ran'l McCoy	Kevin Hackney
Preacher Anse Hatfield	Rich Pinson
Devil Anse Hatfield	Roger Belcher
Roseanna McCoy	Li-Lee Hatfield
Johnse Hatfield	Trey Fields
Cotton Top Hatfield	Andrew Bentley
Cap Hatfield	Benji Collins
Vicey Hatfield	Adriana Hackney
Tolbert McCoy	Cameron Fields
Pharmer McCoy	Jeremy Moore
Bud McCoy	Adam McCoy
Calvin McCoy	Mason Lowe
Ellison Hatfield	Carl Skeeter Smith
Bad Frank Phillips	Treyton Balckburn
Older Alifair McCoy	Kaidence Hackney
Ensemble	Kailey Moore, Hayley Moore, Ashley Fuller, Cole Smith, Civic Horn, Chloe McClanahan, Kenny Lowe, Jason Belcher

Director	Jason Justice
Props/Gun Master	Benji Collins
Fight Coordinator	Samantha Johnson
Costume Designer	Pam Stewart
Lighting	Michael Duty
Sound	Robert Daniels
Hatfield & McCoy Arts Council President	Kim McCoy

Blood Song: The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoy is produced by special arrangement with ICM Partners A/A/F Chelsea Marcantel.

***Blood Song: The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoy* is scheduled to be broadcast Thursday, June 17, 8:20pm**



National Companies



SHAPE Players

Mons, Belgium

shapeplayers.net

Holy Days

by Sally Nemeth

Holy Days concerns a Kansas family in the 1930s trying to survive what is now known as the 'Black Blizzards'. This story of two farmer brothers and their wives struggling to make it through the drought and winds that hit the southern Great Plains, blowing away as much withered hope as dried-out topsoil. Living in close proximity, they engage with each other with a humanity that we almost can't bear to watch, yet can certainly all admire. *Holy Days* is a story of perseverance, a poem with community, sacrifice, endurance, and hope at its core.



CeLyna Chichester, SGT Antonio Panonne, Eric Nelson, and Meg Long in Holy Days

SHAPE Performing Arts Centre is home to the SHAPE Players and the Performing Arts School, providing diverse and imaginative theatre as well as comprehensive classes in theatre, dance, and music of the highest quality to the International Military community on SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe). The SHAPE Players produces seven plays annually, ranging from original adaptations of classic plays to European premieres of musicals, dramas, and comedies. A six-time AACT Region X winner, SHAPE has performed at National Festivals in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, and now in 2021.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Rosie	Meg Long
Gant	Eric Nelson
Will	SGT Antonio Panonne
Molly	CeLyna Chichester

Direction, Set, Sound, Light Designer	Dan LaMorte
Production Stage Manager	SPC Derek Patterson
Costume Designer	Jan Helsen
Properties and Hair Designer	Perlita Simmons
Original Music	Richard Pearson Thomas
Technical Director	Olivier Galloo
Carpenters	Olivier Galloo, Marco Metzner, Chris Wright
Scenic Painter	Jan Helsen
Audio Visual Support	Olivier Galloo, Marco Metzner, Wolfgang Schaefer, Chris Wright
Poster and Program Design	Laurent Jouglet

Holy Days is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing, Inc.

***Holy Days* is scheduled to be broadcast Thursday, June 17, 9:30pm**

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How To Survive Your Family At Christmas

A New Comedy By
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www.williammissouridowns.com



Players de Noc
Escanaba, Michigan
playersdenoc.org/

Jerry's Brain
by J.R. Spaulding, Jr.
Score by Christopher Powell

Jerry and Jamie have spent months attempting to select the best play for a theatre competition, only to be thwarted by licensing permissions. An original script seems to be the only answer. Jerry struggles with his own brain, his ego, his id, and a global pandemic to create an original script to present at AACTFest, the national theatre festival. Can it be created in time for the competition?

Players de Noc is a 100% volunteer community theatre located in Escanaba, Michigan, nestled on the northern shore of Lake Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. The theatre group was founded in 1965, and

Cast (in order of appearance):

Adjudicator 1/Crew	Autumn Fournier
Jerry	Pete Ammel
Super Ego/Character Super Ego	Jeff Woerpel
Id/Character Id	Brian Tourangeau
Internal Soundtrack	Christopher Powell
Director/Crew	Sara LaMarch
Crew/Character Director	Laura Haagensen
Crew	Lou Reynolds
Crew	Tim Haagensen
Crew/Puppet Jerry/Denise	Robin Gavriloff
Crew/Puppet Jamie/Sam	Sam Komay
Crew/ Adjudicator 2	Tim Krebs
Disembodied Voice/Real Jerry	J.R. Spaulding Jr.
Character Jerry/Crew	Brennan Richardson
Bartender/Crew/Character Jamie	Kris Hovland
Jamie	Chris Perryman
Kathy Pingel	Kathy Pingel
Adjudicator 3	Mary Jo DeNolf
Real Jamie	Jamie Peterson

Stage Director	J.R. Spaulding Jr.
Producer, Technical Director	Jamie Peterson
Set, Technical Designer	Jamie Peterson
Lighting Designer	J.R. Spaulding Jr.
Back Stage Manager	Lou Reynolds
Stage Manager, Light Operator	Jenny Heller
Set Dressing, Paint	Robin Gavriloff



Keri Ammel

Pete Ammel (Jerry, center), Jeff Woerpel (Super Ego, left) and Brian Tourangeau (Id, right) in Jerry's Brain

still has a number of original members involved today. Players de Noc produces between four to six different plays and musicals per season, and currently performs in a 240-seat theatre.

Costumes, Paint	Beth Peterson
Animation Artist	Caroline Jasin
Graphic Designer	Laura Haagensen
Sound Design and Operation	Pat Feldhusen, Kerry Madalinski
Construction Crew	Kris Hovland, Robin Gavriloff, Lou Reynolds, Beth Peterson, Pete Ammel, Autumn Fournier, Gabe Kluka, Jamie Peterson

Jerry's Brain is produced through special arrangement with J.R. Spaulding Jr.

The Players de Noc production of *Jerry's Brain* by J.R. Spaulding, Jr., is sponsored in part by Arts People.

***Jerry's Brain* is scheduled to be broadcast Thursday, June 17, 10:40pm**

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National Companies



Windham Actors Guild
Windham, New Hampshire
windhamactorsguild.com

How to be a Good Son by Julia Cho

How to be a Good Son explores the difficult terrain of familial love, and the near impossibility of saying what we feel to the ones we love—even, or especially, when we know that time is running out.

Windham Actors Guild serves the city of Windham and surrounding communities in southern New Hampshire. Welcoming people of all levels of theatrical ability, the company is proud to have produced several award-winning competition pieces.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Steven Ryan McDonough
Linda Irene Cohen
John Keith Strang

Director Colleen Strang
Producer Rana Ata
Technical Director Keith Strang
Stage Manager Lillian Strang
Lighting Design Jackie Fitzgerald-Boyd
Sound Design Keith Strang



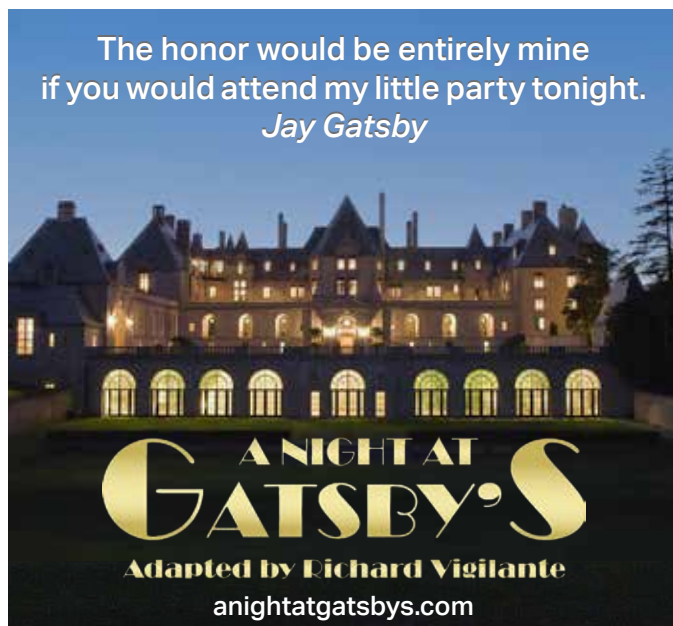
Irene Cohen, Keith Strang, and Ryan McDonough in How to be a Good Son

Sound Board Operator Bryan Lavoie
Costumes Emily Fitzgerald
Set Design Colleen Strang
Set Acquisition Chris Cohen
Crew Macy Doucette

How to be a Good Son is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

The Windham Actors Guild production of *How to be a Good Son*, by Julia Cho, is sponsored in part by Playscripts, a division of Broadway Licensing.

***How to be a Good Son* is scheduled to be broadcast Friday, June 18, 7:10pm**





“A marvel of a musical!”
Hollywood Reporter

“A joyful, wacky accomplishment!”
Variety

“Irresistible!”
New York Times

Jerry Gorman just wants to fly. Everyone thinks he's nutty but his girlfriend believes in him. With great songs and tons of hilarity, *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* reminds us that dreams can come true if you believe in yourself.

6 men, 5 women and optional chorus.

TheatricalRights.com



The Studio Theatre
Little Rock, Arkansas
www.studiotheatrelr.com

Hillary and Clinton
by Lucas Hnath

In an alternate universe not unlike our own, there is a planet called Earth. And on Earth there is a woman named Hillary, who wants to be President of a country called the United States. When she isn't doing so well in the polls, she summons the help of her husband, Bill, and gets more than she ever bargained for. Decide for yourself where fact meets fiction.

The Studio Theatre (TST) was the brainchild of a number of like-minded Little Rock artists and community members who wanted to bring a new brand of community theatre to central Arkansas, offering a broad range of artistic endeavors and quality experiences. Through the generosity of the community, The Studio Theatre was born in early 2013. Each year, The Studio Theatre produces a season of nine plays and musicals, comprised primarily of newer works, Arkansas premieres, and fresh takes on old favorites. A 501(c)3 organization, TST plays host to the community-wide Dark Night Theatre Awards, Arkansas Jazz Society, Arkansas Community Theatre Association's annual meeting, and its own annual drag pageant, MX Studio Theatre. In March of 2020, the TST auditorium was dedicated to founder Bob Bidewell.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Hillary Heather Dupree
Bill Duane Jackson
Mark Evan Tanner
Barack JaColby Crossley

Director Gavin Thomas Drew
Stage Manager Hannah Hill
Scenic Design Chapman Shields
Costume Design Susan Melton
Lighting Design Justin A. Pike
Properties Design Gavin Thomas Drew

Hillary and Clinton is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Hillary and Clinton world premiere produced by Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, Illinois (Chay Yew, Artistic Director; Chris Mannelli, Managing Director). *Hillary and Clinton* was developed by The Cape Cod Theatre Project, Hal Brooks, Artistic Director.



Matthew Sewell

Heather Dupree and Duane Jackson in Hillary and Clinton

The Studio Theatre production of *Hillary and Clinton*, by Lucas Hnath, is sponsored in part by Dramatists Play Service, a division of Broadway Licensing.

Hillary and Clinton is scheduled to be broadcast Friday, June 18, 8:20pm



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National Companies



Shawnee Little Theatre

Shawnee, Oklahoma

shawneelittletheatre.com

A Doll's House, Part 2

by Lucas Hnath

In the final scene of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, Norma Helmer decides to leave her husband and children, and begin a new life. In *A Doll's House, Part 2*, many years have passed, and now there's a knock on that same door. Nora has returned. Why? What will it mean for those she left behind?

Shawnee Oklahoma's award-winning community theatre has been producing live theatre since 1967. Completely self-sufficient through ticket sales, donations, and sponsorships, the theatre is totally staffed by volunteers. Twice chosen as Oklahoma's community Theatre of the Year, Shawnee Little Theatre was last seen at the AACT National Festival in 1979, with the second-place production of *The Lion in Winter*. Shawnee Little Theatre produces four plays each season, with season-extras, including summer theatre camps for children and challenging new plays. The volunteers are of all ages, with great-great grandchildren of some of the original members performing on stage.



Jill Fry, Scott Bartley, Karla Kelly, and Nicki Sherman in *A Doll's House, Part 2*

Cast (in order of appearance):

Anne Marie	Karla Kelly
Nora	Nicki Sherman
Torvald	Scott Bartley
Emmy	Jill Fry

Director	Rebecca Fry
Stage Manager	Lynn Goodson
Costume Designers/Seamstresses	Tami Lawson, Rebecca Fry
Wig Design	Jennifer Teel
Make up	Jill Fry
Set Design	Matt Hopkins
Set Construction	Preston Fry, Tom Dicken, Kate Blain
Light Design	Preston Fry, Ronny Jones
Sound	Michael Schwab

A Doll's House, Part 2 is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Originally produced on Broadway by Scott Rudin, Eli Bush, Joey Parnes, Sue Wagner, and John Johnson. Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory.

A Doll's House, Part 2 benefited from a residency at New Dramatists.

The Shawnee Little Theatre production of *A Doll's House, Part 2*, by Lucas Hnath, is sponsored in part by Dramatists Play Service, a division of Broadway Licensing.

***A Doll's House, Part 2*, is scheduled to be broadcast Friday, June 18, 9:30pm**



National Companies



South City Theatre

Pelham, Alabama

southcitytheatre.com

Collected Stories

by Donald Margulies

The conflict between an established artist and an adulatory fan who becomes a protégé, then colleague, then friend, then finally threatening rival, resurfaces in *Collected Stories*. The play looks at how time, truth, and art change people and their interactions—not just with each other, but also with themselves.

South City Theatre (SCT) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community theatre dedicated to promoting theatre since 2000. SCT is an all-volunteer theatre in a converted shopping center space that seats 65. SCT produces six mainstage plays each year, and special events, attracting approximately 3,000 audience members annually. Its youth program, Acting Up, allows children ages 9-16 the opportunity to study the craft of acting by producing a production under the direction of professional theatre instructors. SCT has won “Best in Show” at state festivals, and represented Alabama at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) with *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Agnes of God*, *Sylvia*, *Doubt*, and *‘night, Mother*. In 2020, SCT’s production *The Gulf* took top honors at SETC.



Steven Ross

Ashley Richardson and Sue Ellen Gerrells in *Collected Stories*

Cast (in order of appearance):

Ruth Steiner Sue Ellen Gerrells
Lisa Morrison Ashley Richardson

Director Pat Yates
Stage Manager Donna Williamson
Lighting/Sound Design Lisa Ponder
Lighting/Sound Operator Lisa Ponder
Props Sharon Morgan
Set Design Daniel Strickland
Set Construction Daniel Strickland,
Mike Gerrells, Ed Yates

Collected Stories is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust on April 30, 1997. Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory.

The South City Theater production of *Collected Stories*, by Donald Margulies, is sponsored in part by Dramatists Play Service, a division of Broadway Licensing.

***Collected Stories* is scheduled to be broadcast on Saturday, June 19 at 7:10pm**

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National Companies



Bellingham Theatre Guild

Bellingham, Washington

bellinghamtheatreguild.com

The Harry and Sam Dialogues

by Karen Ellison

On the surface, *The Harry and Sam Dialogues* appears to be philosophical discussions between two blue-collar types who are way out of their league, but their discussions are surprisingly lively. They use what they can from their own lives, like milk and Ding-Dongs, to make sense of what everything means. They discuss all the big questions: Is there life after death? How are men and women different? And, of course, if a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?

The Bellingham Theatre Guild (BTG) has been producing live theatre in Whatcom County, Washington, since 1928. Over the last 92 years, BTG has flourished as a non-profit member organization, passionately committed to providing quality theatre experiences to the public, produced by volunteer actors, directors, and crew, striving to balance its appeal to audiences with musicals, comedies, farces, and dramas.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Harry Jeff Braswell

Sam Kevin Six

Director/Set and Sound Designer Les Campbell

Stage Manager/Technical Director/

Lighting Design Christy Ham

Props/Costumes Les Campbell,
Christy Ham,
Jeff Braswell, Kevin Six



Robert Muzzy

Jeff Braswell and Kevin Six in *The Harry and Sam Dialogues*

Set Construction Stan Snapp, Pete Tryon

Performance Space Keefe Healy/Bellingham High School

BTG/AACTFest Committee Christy Ham, Jo Kaas,

Dee Dee O'Connor, Sean Walbeck

The Harry and Sam Dialogues is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The Bellingham Theatre Guild production of *The Harry and Sam Dialogues*, by Karen Ellison, is sponsored in part by Dramatists Play Service, a division of Broadway Licensing.

***The Harry and Sam Dialogues* is scheduled to be broadcast Saturday, June 19, 8:20pm**



Colvin Theatrical, a professional video production company, is traveling to the selected AACTFest 2021 National Companies to record the productions to be presented during Virtual AACTFest. They will shoot each show on four Blackmagic 6K cinema cameras, providing a mix of close-ups, wide angles, and moving shots. Through live-editing and broadcasting technology, each performance video will emulate the theatrical experience of an in-person AACTFest, while ensuring professional, high-quality cinematic standards.

AACT is enjoying working with Colvin Theatrical to create an exciting, stimulating, festival experience, while providing a blueprint for community theatres to take advantage of these new video technologies, and grow their digital audiences.

**The Lexington Players**

Lexington, Massachusetts

facebook.com/The-Lexington-Players

The Mountaintop

by Katori Hall

The Mountaintop is a fictional depiction of events the night before the assassination of the civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. After delivering one of his most memorable speeches, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," Dr. King retires to his motel room, where an encounter with a maid causes him to reflect on his mission and purpose. The play is set in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on the eve of his assassination in 1968. (Adult Language)

Since 1995, The Lexington Players continue to provide its community with adult and children's theatre, including The Lexington Players's YouthStage, which provides summer workshop programs. At AACTFest 2019, the company received multiple awards, including Overall Outstanding Production and Outstanding Achievement in a Leading Role, and is honored to perform *The Mountaintop* for Virtual AACTFest 2021.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dominic Carter
Camae Jes Washington

Director Sal Jones
Producer Susan Harrington and Sal Jones
Stage Manager Nadine Sa
Set Designer Doug Cooper
Lights and Sound Mike McTeague
Costumes Michelle Aguilon



Jes Washington and Dominic Carter in The Mountaintop

Props Susan Harrington, Doug Cooper,
Amy Newberg, Bret Bahe

Application Video Alan McRae, Chet Maguire

Special Thanks: Arlington Friends of the Drama

The Mountaintop is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. *The Mountaintop* was developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City, produced by Theatre 503, Trafalgar studio one by Sonia Friedman and several other production groups.

The Lexington Players production of *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall, is sponsored in part by Dramatists Play Service, a division of Broadway Licensing.

***The Mountaintop* is scheduled to be broadcast Saturday, June 19, 9:30pm**

BROADWAY
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Broadway On Demand will broadcast the performances during festival week.

Considered the premier streaming platform, Broadway On Demand's experience in offering exclusive livestream events and a wide-ranging library of video on demand content, will allow it to offer attendees two ways to view festival performances:

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Virtual AACTFest 2021 Adjudicators

Virtual AACTFest 2021 will feature three experienced and nationally known adjudicators, whose comments on productions will provide a learning experience for all participating companies and audience members. Adjudication dates and times are listed for each National Company production in the AACTFest 2021 schedule.



Jeff Calhoun is a Tony nominee for Disney's *Newsies* and Deaf West Theater's *Big River*. He directed both the world premiere and international productions of Disney's *High School Musical: On Stage* and Disney's *High School Musical 2: On Stage*. Jeff is an Associate Artist at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. and is also a Keynote Speaker for AACTFest 2021.



Allen Ebert is the Executive Director at Children's Theater of Madison, in Madison, Wisconsin. He is a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, whose Army Community Theatre provides soldiers and family members an opportunity to participate in and experience theatre. He received a degree in theater and drama from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has served on the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre board of directors, including as president. Over the past 23 years, Ebert

has directed, performed, adjudicated, and conducted workshops at theatres across the country.



Amy Wratchford is Managing Director of the American Shakespeare Center (ASC) in Staunton, Virginia. Previously, she served as Managing Director of Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta, and worked for 13 years in a number of capacities in theatre in New York City, as producer, director, and actor. Wratchford holds a bachelor's degree in acting from the Tisch School of the Arts of New York University, and a master's degree in performing arts management from Brooklyn College.

Alternate adjudicator:



Richard (Rick) St. Peter is an award-winning stage director, producer, and educator, with nearly 20 years' experience in professional and academic theatre. From 2003 to 2009, he served as the Artistic Director at Kentucky's Actors Guild of Lexington. St. Peter was a participant in the LaMaMa/Umbria International Directors Symposium, and has been the recipient of a Princess Grace Foundation Theater Award. He received his M.F.A. in Stage Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University,

and his Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University.

More about the 2021 AACTFest Adjudicators can be found at aact.org/adjudicators.

These adjudicators will be sharing their comments on each National Company performance. Check the festival schedule and don't miss the insightful input to each performance.

The National Adjudication Sessions are sponsored in part by Heuer Publishing. ♦

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Virtual AACTFest Keynote Speakers

Throughout the week, prominent keynote speakers will share their experiences as performers and theatre makers.



Monday, June, 14, 7pm

Jeff Calhoun is a Tony nominee for Disney's *Newsies* and Deaf West Theater's *Big River*. He directed both the world premiere and international productions of Disney's *High School Musical: On Stage*, and Disney's *High School Musical 2: On Stage*. His work on Broadway's *Grease* earned him a Tony Award nomination for Best Choreography. He also provided choreography for *Xena: Warrior Princess (The Bitter Suite)*, *Down-town*, *Happy Together*, and *Weekend Warriors*.

For Amazon Prime, he recently directed *Cyndi Lauper & Friends: Home for The Holidays* and *A Night of Covenant House Stars*. Jeff is an Associate Artist at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C., and serves on the Board of Directors for Covenant House International, a not-for-profit organization that shelters and cares for homeless and trafficked youth in 31 cities, across six countries. Jeff is also an AACTFest 2021 Guest Adjudicator.

The Keynote Address by Jeff Calhoun and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Monday, 6:15 – 7pm) are sponsored in part by Disney Theatrical Group.



Tuesday, June 15, 7pm

Kristofer Geddie is the Director of Diversity and General Manager at Venice Theatre in Venice, Florida. Kris holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Mars Hill University, is currently enrolled in graduate school at Goucher College for a Master's in Arts Administration, and has been seen numerous times on stage at Venice Theatre. Prior to coming to Venice, Kris had been seen performing on stages around the world. In addition to Kris' duties at Venice Theatre, he

serves on the Ambassador Circle for Embracing our Differences, is the treasurer of the Florida Theatre Conference, the Florida state community theatre representative, and is thrilled to serve as a Board Member of the Friends of the Venice Public Library and AACT.

The Keynote Address by Kristofer Geddie and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Tuesday, 6:15 – 7pm) are sponsored in part by Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

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- Mike Rademakers, Artistic Director

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ATwistedChristmasCarol.com
BirthdayClubThePlay.com



Wednesday, June 16, 7pm

Rob McClure comes directly from playing the title role in the Broadway production of *Mrs. Doubtfire*. He has received Tony, Drama League, Astaire, and Outer Critics Circle nominations, and won both Theatre World and Clive Barnes awards for his performance in the title role of *Chaplin: The Musical*. Other Broadway credits include Adam Maitland in *Beetlejuice*, Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten!*, Tim in the Round-

about Theatre Company revival of *Noises Off*, and the roles of Princeton and Rod in *Avenue Q*. He charmed crowds at New York City Center Encores! in both *Where's Charley?* and *Irma La Douce*. He has appeared at the Cleveland Playhouse, the American Repertory Theatre, St Louis's Muny, Paper Mill Playhouse, The Old Globe, Delaware Theatre Co., Flat Rock Playhouse, McCarter Theatre, and La Jolla Playhouse. Rob's appearance in the award-winning short film *Recursion* (directed by Sam Buntrock), earned him Best Actor at both The Queen's World and Williamsburg Independent Film Festivals. Recent TV credits include CBS's *Person of Interest*, *Elementary*, *EVIL*, and *The Good Fight*.

The Keynote Address by Rob McClure and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Wednesday, 6:20 – 7pm) are sponsored in part by Music Theatre International.



Thursday, June 17, 7pm

Chilina Kennedy is the Artistic Producer of Toronto's Eclipse Theatre Company, but is best known for her work on stage. Her Broadway credits include the role of Carole King in *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* for over 1200 performances, and Mary Magdalene in Des McNuff's *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Off-Broadway, she originated the role of Binky in *This Ain't No Disco*. She also played Sophie in the first National Tour of

Mamma Mia!, and recently was Dina in the International Tour of *The Band's Visit*. Regional performances include Phoebe in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (San Diego Critics' Circle nomination), the title character in *Evangeline* (original production and album), Ross Petty's pantomime *The Little Mermaid* (Toronto Theatre Critics Award), and three seasons at the Stratford Festival and Shaw Festival. She is currently developing a show with Eric Holmes, *Call It Love*.

The Keynote Address by Chilina Kennedy and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Thursday, 6:30 – 7pm) are sponsored in part by Concord Theatricals.



Friday, June 18, 6pm

Mandy Moore is a 2017, 2018, and 2020 Emmy Award-winner, eight-time Emmy-nominee, and a world-class director, producer, choreographer, and dancer. But she's best known for her ground-breaking work as a producer and choreographer on the television hit *So You Think You Can Dance*. In 2017, she made history by being the first to choreograph for the Golden Globe Awards, Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, and Emmy Awards all in the same year. Her highly acclaimed choreography can be seen throughout the

year. Her highly acclaimed

continued on the next page ►

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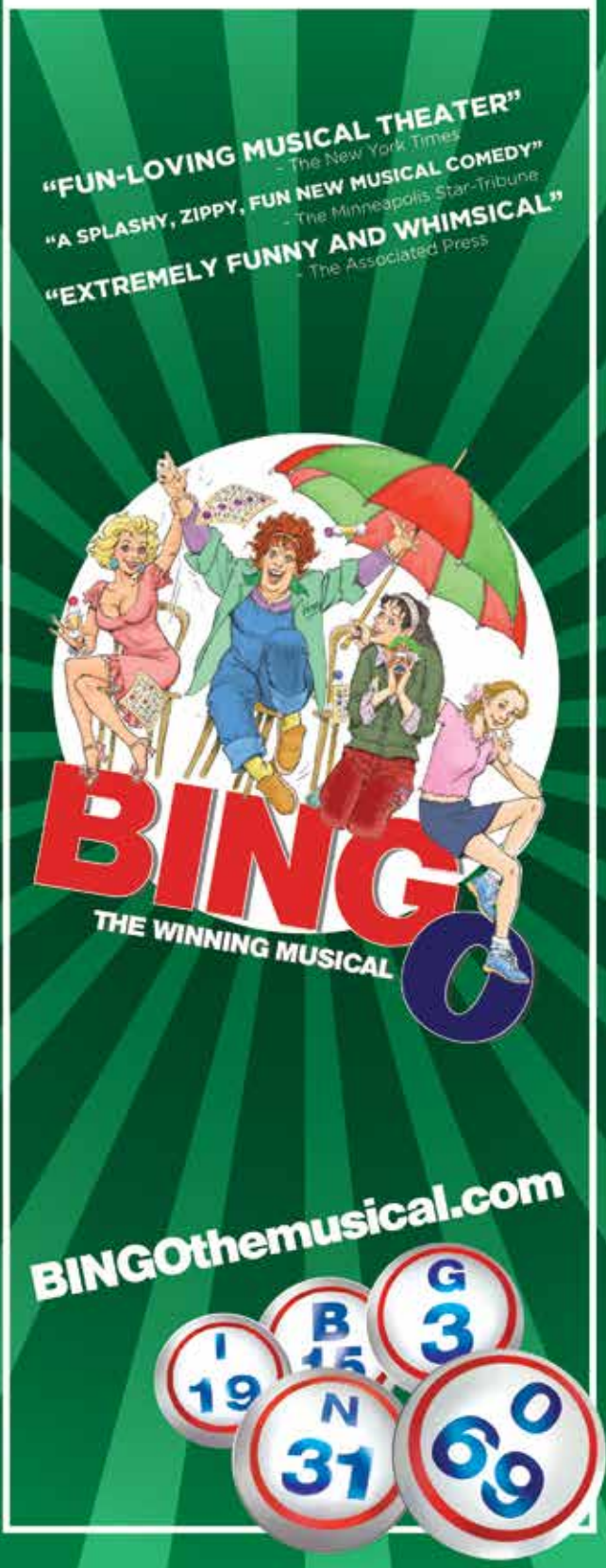
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Virtual AACTFest Keynote Speakers continued from page 27

original movie musical *La La Land*. Mandy is currently the producer and choreographer for NBC's new hit series *Zoe's Extraordinary Playlist*, as well as a choreographer, producer, and guest judge for ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. On stage, Mandy has worked with the *Dancing with the Stars* Tour, the L.A. Ballet Company's innovative New Wave L.A. Program, Celine Dion's *Taking Chances* concert tour, Britain's *Strictly Come Dancing*, Cirque du Soleil's *My Immortal*, and Shania Twain's *You're Still the One*. She also takes time to teach and educate the next generation of dance talent.

The Keynote Address by Mandy Moore and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Friday, 4:30 – 5:45pm) are sponsored in part by Stage Rights.



Saturday, June 19, 6pm

Frank Galati won two Tony Awards for his adaptation and direction of Steppenwolf's production of *The Grapes of Wrath* on Broadway, and was nominated for a Tony Award in 1998 for directing the musical, *Ragtime*. He has been a member of the Steppenwolf ensemble since 1985. His productions at the Goodman Theatre, where he was an associate director from 1986-2008, include *The Winter's Tale*, *The Good Person of Setzuan*,

and *Cry the Beloved Country*. He is a professor emeritus in the Department of Performance Studies at Northwestern University, and an artistic associate at Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, where his adaptation of James Agee's novel *A Death in the Family* opened in April. His adaption of *Kafka on the Shore*, which premiered at Steppenwolf, opens in Zagreb, Croatia, on May 22. Frank is also currently working on a new musical called *Knoxville*, with Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, creators of *Ragtime* and *Once On this Island*.

The Keynote Address by Frank Galati and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Saturday, 5:30 – 6pm) is sponsored in part by Arts People.



Sunday, June 20, 6pm

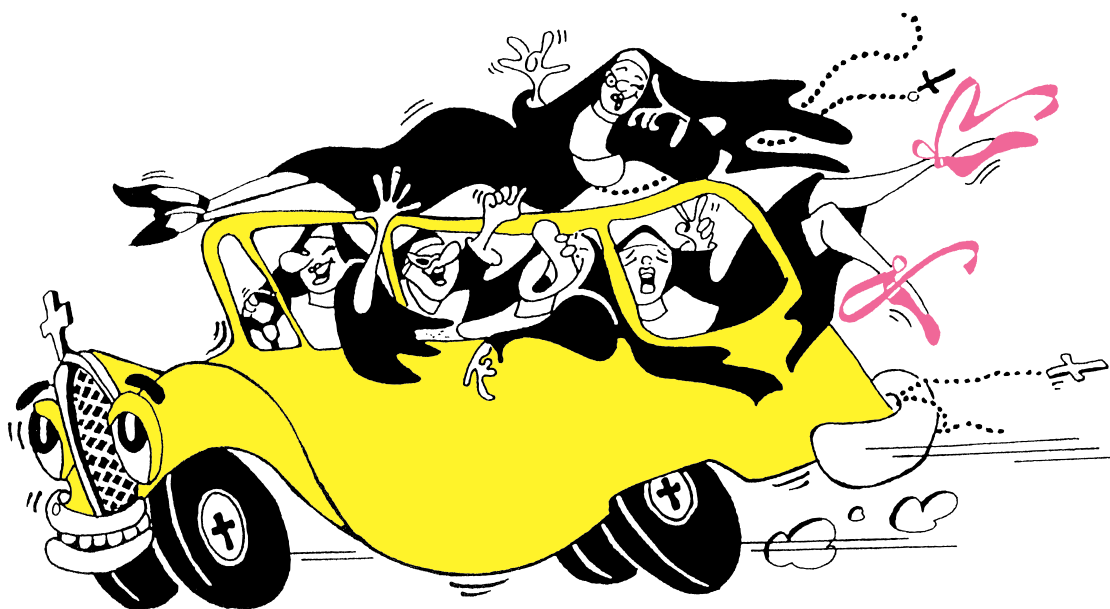
Philip Hernandez is the only actor in Broadway history to have played both Jean Valjean and Inspector Javert in *Les Misérables*. He made his Broadway debut in the original cast of the Tony Award-winning musical, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, directed by Harold Prince. In *Kiss*, he created the role of Esteban, and later went on to play the impassioned revolutionary Valentin in London and on Broadway. Philip created

the role of Reverend Gonzalez in the original cast of Paul Simon's *The Capeman*, and played Juan Peron in Harold Prince's 25th Anniversary North American Tour of *Evita*. On the concert stage he has worked with the New York Philharmonic, under the baton of Leonard Bernstein, Robert Shaw, and Zubin Mehta, and with symphony orchestras throughout the United States. Philip teaches audition and performance technique in New York City, and master classes and workshops across North America.

The Keynote Address by Philip Hernandez and the preceding Evening Welcome/Social Event (Sunday, 5:15 – 6pm) are sponsored in part by Music Theatre International. ♦

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“It’s no news that Dan Goggin’s *Nunsense* and his variations thereof, very small musicals that morph into humongous cash cows, have been the saviors of theaters all over the world.” — *The New York Times*



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Stretch Your Mind with Festival Workshops

Pick up vital new skills, fine-tune those you already have

Among the over 60 events planned for Virtual AACTFest 2021 are online workshops and panels aimed at what we need most—revitalization.

Reflecting the current global health crisis and its effect on live theatre, workshops will include topics related to COVID-19 recovery, including outreach, reinventing productions, audience safety, and communications.

There also will be a well-rounded roster of sessions for directors, actors, designers, administrators, educators, and marketers. Learn new technological advances, and participate in forums addressing inclusion, diversity, and accessibility, as well as other challenges brought into sharp focus over the past year.



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Acting and Directing

Demystifying AACT Adjudication

Monday, June 14, 4-5pm

The success of any AACT Festival is largely dependent upon the skill of adjudicators. Discover what effective adjudication entails and why hiring the right team can make a festival successful.

Presenter: Kathy Pingel has adjudicated at the state, regional, national, and international levels for AACT and in 2015, 2017, 2019 taught AACT's Adjudication Workshop at the national festival. Kathy holds a B.A. in theatre from Eastern Michigan University, a M.A. from Northwestern University in Performance Studies, and a M.A. in teaching from Northwestern.

A Directing Intensive: Cultivating the Most from Script, Cast & Collaborators

Tuesday, June 15, 3:15 - 4:15pm

Glean the most from your script, your cast, and your overall production—on any budget. Includes script analysis, project management, casting, blocking, boundaries and expectations, personal style, co-creation, exercises to induce growth, and more.

Presenter: Dorinda Toner is the Producing Artistic Director of Twilight Theater Company in Portland, Oregon. She's also a Board member of the Portland Area Theatre Alliance.

A Directing Intensive workshop is sponsored in part by Stage Rights.

A Comic Actor's Formula: Timing + Truth = Laughs

Tuesday, June 15, 3:15 - 4:15pm

Comedy can be conveyed by words, images, or actions, and can take a wide range of forms. Unlock the secrets of how to "do" comedy, focusing on the art of telling truth with impeccable timing.

Presenter: Rita Sprague has served as an adjudicator with Theatre Ontario, and as an award-winning director with the Western Ontario Drama League, as well as with theatres in Scotland.

A Comic Actor's Formula is sponsored in part by Stage Rights.

Direct from Portugal! Teatro Imedio's Playback Theatre's Improvisation Techniques

Wednesday, June 16, 10:30 - 11:30am

Create a space where participants can experience the "Fluid Sculpture," in a safe environment, one of the basic forms of Playback Theatre, an original form of improvisational theatre.

Presenter: António Vicente received his Master's in Theatre (Community Theatre) from the Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema (ESTC), Lisbon, Portugal, and a Diploma in Playback Theatre. He is Co-Founder of Teatro Imediato, and Co-Director of the Iberian School of Playback Theatre. In 2018 he became an executive board member of the International Playback Theatre Network (IPTN).

"I Really Need This Part" Auditioning Techniques

Wednesday, June 16, 12:30 - 1:30pm

Explore the intricacies of auditioning for a musical. Learn how to enter a room, tell your story, and get that part.

Presenters: Rick Kerby is the Artistic Director of Manatee Performing Arts Center in Bradenton, Florida. Rick has been named Best Director at the Florida Theatre Conference, three-time winner as Best Director at the South Eastern Theater Conference, and two-time winner as Best Director at AACTFest.

Brian Martin is currently making his Broadway debut in the original company of Mrs. Doubtfire!

Acting the Song with Broadway's Lauren Molina

Wednesday, June 16, 1:45 – 2:45pm

Fine-tune your acting skills, while connecting to music, lyrics, and intentions. Pre-selected students will prepare solo material, and then be coached in this dynamic master class.

Presenter: Lauren Molina has performed as Johanna in the revival of Sweeney Todd and is a performer with indie-rock band The Skivvies

Artistic Directors Panel: Choosing a Forward-Thinking Season

Thursday, June 17, 10:30 – 11:30am

Regional Theatre Artistic Directors face similar questions: How can we attract audiences while challenging them? What stories can we tell that reflect our surrounding communities? What do we change to be more inclusive, diverse, and accessible? This panel explores the answers.

*Presenters: Mark Cuddy is the Artistic Director at GEVA Theatre
Stephanie Ybarra is the Artistic Director at Baltimore Center Stage
Kenn-Matt Martin is the Artistic Director at Victory Gardens Theatre
Tiffany Johnson is the Artistic Director at Pyramid Theatre*

The Artistic Directors Panel is sponsored in part by Arts People

Q&A with Jeff Calhoun: Universal Directing Challenges

Thursday, June 17, 2:30 – 3:30pm

Directing has universal challenges, no matter how large or small your stage may be.

Presenter: Jeff Calhoun is an award-winning and Tony-nominated director, and AACTFest 2021 Keynote speaker.

Professional Actor's Roundtable

Friday, June 18, 10:30 – 11:30am

Over the past 15 years, a remarkable number of Grand Rapids Civic Theatre's young performers have found their way to Broadway, and they're here to tell you how they did it.

*Presenters: Mikey Winslow's credits include Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Hamilton, and On the Town
Brian Martin's credits include Mrs. Doubtfire, Bullets Over Broadway
Julia Freyer Gleason is a Professional Choreographer with the American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Laurie Veldheer's credits include Plaza Suite, Mamma Mia!, and Newsies*

Diversity and Change

Theatre as a Tool for Change: Creating Meaningful Bonds Through Education

Wednesday, June 16, 10:30 – 11:30am

Theatre transcends race, gender, and culture. Understand how the technical aspects of theatre can be used as a powerful tool for change, particularly in educational initiatives.

Presenter: Ntandoyenkosi Mpande brings a unique perspective from African culture with experience as an artistic director, script writer, poet, arts consultant, blogger, author, and researcher.

BIPOC Panel

Friday, June 18, 1:45 – 2:45pm

Practical steps toward inclusiveness and accessibility can be accomplished in any theatre.

Presenters: Michelle Aguillon, Steven Butler, Kris Geddie, Sal Jones, Dennis Yslas

Workshops continue on the next page ►



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A Path Forward: BIPOC Diversity & Inclusion in the Performing Arts

Saturday, June 19, 3 – 4pm

Address the issue of the lack of diversity in community theatre and understand what can be done now to make a change. Learn to increase the representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Color at every level—and elevating BIPOC voices through programming, awareness and engagement.

Presenter: Gary DeWitt Marshall's career includes film, television, and theatre, receiving numerous awards for his work. In this workshop he will be joined by writer, coach, and director Stevi Meredith.

Marketing, Box Office, and Fundraising

The 5-Step Plan for Virtual Event Marketing Success

Monday, June 14, 4–5pm

Virtual events require unique selling propositions that differ greatly from those used for live performances. Learn specific communication strate-

gies and campaign tactics that will create excitement and engagement from your email list and social media platforms.

Presenter: Keith Tomasek is an award-winning arts marketing consultant. His campaigns have sold over \$400,000 worth of tickets to virtual events. He is the leader of the Arts Marketing Mastermind.

Leveraging Technology to Promote Your Theatre

Monday, June 14, 4–5pm

From web applications to social media, uncover better ways to promote, connect, and expand your community theatre across all regions.

Presenters: Jennifer Shea, Murtagh Hunt, Michelle Aguillon, Kai Cho

Ten Steps to Half a Million

Monday, June 14, 5:15 – 6:15pm

Take a small volunteer organization to the next level with strategic hiring, board development and sales techniques.

Presenter: Michael D. Fox is Chief Operations Officer at the Hale Centre Theatre in Utah, after first playing on stage, working as box office manager, being accounting specialist, director of operations, stage manager, and sound board engineer. He attended Southern Utah University, home of the Tony-award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival, on a performance scholarship.

Courting Corporate Sponsorships? Make Your Theatre Irresistible

Tuesday, June 15, 12:45 – 1:45pm

Learn steps taken by Theatre Tuscaloosa to reorganize its corporate sponsorship program, conduct audience demographic research, leverage board member relationships to open doors, negotiate sponsorships that meet sponsor needs, and design effective sponsorship materials.

Presenter: Adam Miller has served as Managing Director of Alabama's Theatre Tuscaloosa since 2010. His previous experience includes Director of Marketing & Public Relations for Louisiana State University's Department of Theatre and its affiliated Equity theatre, Swine Palace Productions. Adam holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Management from the University of Alabama.

No More Lines: Reinventing the Box Office, Post-COVID

Tuesday, June 15, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Explore key strategies to reimagine how to interact with patrons. Learn cutting-edge, practical methods to incorporate safety into your essential audience interactions.

Presenter: Mark Blackmon is USITT's Director of Engagement, and develops bold new thinking about audiences and their intersection with technology.

Adapt and Pivot: How to Survive in A Post-Pandemic World

Wednesday, June 16, 1:45 – 2:45pm

BookTix experts share what they've learned in response to COVID regulations. Topics include considerations for social-distanced seating and corresponding ticket sales, as well as contactless mobile entry. Learn how to control audience size, and track patrons with contact-tracing in mind.

Presenters: Jason Goldstein founded BookTix to help theatre programs increase ticket sales. He is dedicated to weaving creativity with technology and business.

Cassie Balint ensures that BookTix is always performing at peak levels in regards to outstanding customer support and features.

Adrianna Allen elevates BookTix daily with her varied professional expertise.

The Adapt and Pivot workshop is sponsored in part by BookTix.

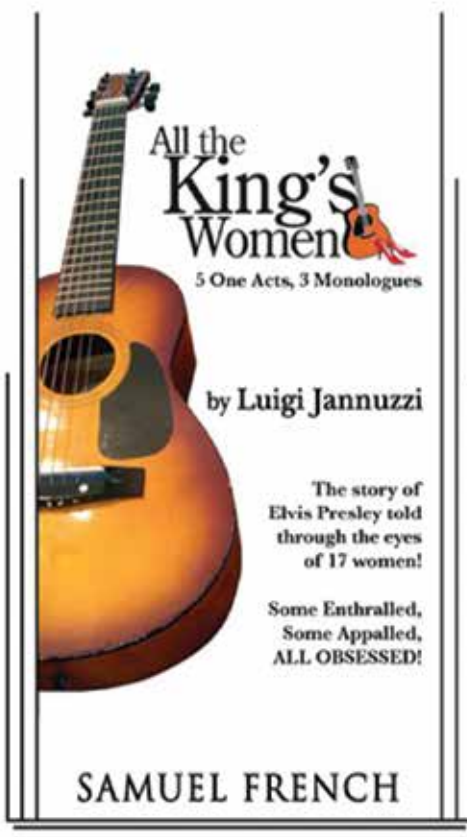
Re-Opening With Innovation: Digital Marketing Strategy

Friday, June 18, 1:45 – 2:45pm

Go through a checklist of the top six digital marketing strategies your theatre needs to maximize patron engagement and attendance at your theatre, post-pandemic.

Presenter: Julie Nemitz is the founder of Theatre Marketing Academy

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Technical Theatre

Without Light, It's Dark

Tuesday, June 15, 2 – 3pm

Explore how the application of light (and darkness) sets the mood and directs the audience's attention.

Presenter: Bob Frame is a recently-retired Director of Theatre Operations. Over his more than 45-year career, he has designed lights in both professional and academic settings, and for almost every style imaginable, including rock concerts, musicals, plays, industrial shows, modern dance, and ballet.

May I Touch You? Body Autonomy in the Costume Shop

Tuesday, June 15, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Costumers must establish and strengthen trust and relationship with performers, showing respect for their personal boundaries. Learn the foundational ideas behind intimacy direction, and practical ways to apply these to the costuming process.

Presenter: Darrell Wagner earned a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and an M.F.A. in Theater Design and Technology from the University of Idaho.

Designing a Show with New Eyes

Tuesday, June 15, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Learn to create an original scenic design using imagination and realistic resources. Discover what works best for your team and your theatre.

Presenter: Tobin Ost is an award-winning, Tony-nominated Broadway scenic and costume designer, who has been working professionally for 20 years. Tobin received his B.F.A. degree in Art History and Theatre from the University of Michigan and received his M.F.A. degree in Set and Costume Design from the Yale School of Drama.

Scenic Painting Demonstration: Getting Started, Then Kicking It Up a Notch

Wednesday, June 16, 12:30 – 1:30pm

Talented designers from across the country give you new approaches to telling the story through color and texture.

Presenters: Tim Wisgerhof is Venice Theatre's Resident Scenic Designer.

Jenn York is the Scenic Designer at Tacoma Little Theatre.

David Len is the Scenic Designer at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.

Creating a Unified Approach: Productive Conversations with Designers to Maximize Your Concept

Wednesday, June 16, 1:45 – 2:45pm

Learn how all design elements must be in harmony and equally supportive of the concept, in order for a play to be fully realized.

Presenter: Ed Sayles is the Producing Manager at Merry-Go-Round Theatre. He heads his own consulting company, Creative Communication and Development. He has a B.A. from SUNY Cortland and an M.A. from Bowling Green State University.

Costumer's Panel: Mindful Changes, Smaller Budgets, Great Awareness

Friday, June 18, 10:30 – 11:30am

Join seasoned costume designers from across the country as they discuss stretching a dollar, asking the right questions of directors, and creating a safe place for actors.

Presenters: Angela Lampe is a Costume Designer for Des Moines Playhouse.

Becky Evans is a Costume Designer at the University of Colorado.

Nick Hartman is a freelance costume designer.

Donna Scarfe is on the Resolutions Committee in Des Moines at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

Workshops continue on the next page ►



Setting the Table: Creating Realistic Faux Food for the Stage

Saturday, June 19, 3 – 4pm

Use various mediums to produce realistic-looking food items that will enhance your stage productions.

Presenter: Michael Wilson has been creating props for stage productions for over 25 years, and is currently Prop Master for Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Over the years, he has developed a special focus on the creation of specialty and faux food stage props.

Dance

Rock the House! Tap Dance with Kristyn Pope's Motivated Movers

Friday, June 18, 10:30 – 11:30am

Dust off the COVID cobwebs and move those feet!

Presenter: Kristyn Pope's latest tour with Lorna Luft in the national tour of White Christmas tops a long career as performer and teacher.

Ryan VanDenBoom: Motivated Movement + Hamilton Choreography Workshop

Saturday, June 19, 10:30 – 11:30am

Get your body moving and learn original choreography from the theatrical phenomenon, *Hamilton*. Using your body as your instrument, seek truth to tell your story.

Presenter: Ryan VanDenBoom most recently appeared in the TV series Fosse/Verdon, and can also be seen in the Coen Brothers' farce, Hail, Caesar! On stage, Ryan has performed in the most recent Broadway revival of Annie, Something Rotten! and Bandstand.

Youth Theatre

Youth Leadership Panel: Voices from the Future

Monday, June 14, 5:15 – 6:15pm

Learn from young adults who have all played significant leadership roles in their home theatres, and are now making their way in the world.

Presenters: Dean Bruce, Katherine McGrall, Travis Reinders, Elsa Klein, Megan Harnett, Casey Berkery

The Challenge and Power of Youth-Devised Work

Tuesday, June 15, 12:45 – 1:15pm

The Darrow Theatre Workshop has been successful through a collaborative effort by students, playwrights, directors, and producers. See how they provide a safe space for teens to share stories, and then experience the power of hearing their own words.

Presenter: Jennifer Pytleski serves as Performing Arts Department Chair at The Darrow School in New Lebanon, New York, where she has directed

many youth-devised productions that have positively impacted the community, and supported new voices.

Theatre Educators Panel: New Programing, New Faces

Tuesday, June 15, 2 – 3pm

Rebuilding a theatre education program will not be easy but, as you revamp, it's worth it to ask what must be done to grow in an innovative direction and enhance inclusivity.

Presenters: Robin Spahr is the Education Director at Des Moines Playhouse. Kelly Duyn is the Assistant Director of Education & Outreach at Venice Theatre.

April Cochran is the Education Director at Market House Theatre.

Jeremy Kisling is the Producing Artistic Director at Lexington Children's Theatre.

Making Theatre

"A Chat with Ken Davenport," Broadway Producer

Monday, June 14, 5:15 – 6:15pm

Presenter: Ken Davenport is a Tony Award-winning Broadway producer

"A Chat with Tim Pettolina," House Manager for Broadway's *Hamilton*

Tuesday, June 15, 12:45 – 1:15pm

Presenter: Tim Pettolina is a Broadway theatre manager

"A Chat with Peter Colley," International Playwright

Tuesday, June 15, 3:15 – 4:15pm

Learn about bringing a new play to the stage, what makes for a successful play, and how to break in to the business.

Presenter: Peter Colley is an award-winning Canadian writer based in Los Angeles and Toronto. His most recent musical, Cagney, had a successful, sold-out run Off Broadway at The York Theatre

A Chat with Peter Colley is sponsored in part by Stage Rights

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Volunteer Actor

Tuesday, June 15, 3:15 – 4:15pm

Join volunteer actors from across several regions to hear positive suggestions for next steps toward uplifting our volunteers.

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Volunteer Actor is sponsored in part by Stage Rights.

Presenters: Winston Daniels, Robin McGee, Josh Morehead, Charlie Reese, Karen Schaeffer, Cory Woomert

"A Chat with Letia Clouston", Director of Horror and Hallmark Movies

Wednesday, June 16, 10:30 – 11am

Presenter: Letia Clouston is an award-winning TV/Film director

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Playwright's Pitch Room

Wednesday, June 16, 10:30 – 11am

Fifteen playwrights with unpublished plays have each prepared a two-minute elevator pitch to sell their stories. Artistic directors, take notice. Learn to start a New Play Series, including comedies, dramas, and 10-minute plays.

The Playwright's Pitch Room is sponsored in part by TRW Plays.

MTI Licensing and Streaming

Wednesday, June 16, 12:30 – 1:30pm

Learn about licensing and producing shows during this new and challenging time, MTI's new streaming platform, MTI's policies, and receive guidance on streaming your next MTI show.

Presenter: John Prignano is the Director of Education & Development at Music Theatre International

The MTI Licensing and Streaming workshop is sponsored in part by Music Theatre International.

Senior Theatre Resources

Thursday, June 17, 10:30 – 11:30am

Engage your senior population with performance opportunities.

Presenter: Bonnie Vorenberg, President, ArtAge Publications

"A Chat with Wesley Whatley," Creative Director of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Thursday, June 17, 10:30 – 11:30am

It takes over a year to plan and execute the biggest parade of the holiday season.

Presenter: Wesley Whatley is the Creative Director of Macy's Parade

AACT NewPlayFest Dramaturgy

Saturday, June 19, 3 – 4pm

A dramaturge is valuable on your production team if you're producing a new work or a classic.

Presenter: Kathy Pingel, AACT NewPlayFest Dramaturg



Take Part in the AACTFest 2021 Silent Auction

Contribute to the fun of Virtual AACTFest 2021 by participating in the online Silent Auction. Donate or purchase one or more items to benefit the AACT Endowment's Festival Support Fund, and the 12 companies participating in the national Virtual AACTFest 2021.

Donating Items

First, consider donating a special item to be auctioned. To enhance the event's success, items are sought with a minimum value of \$100 per item, basket, or grouped items to be auctioned together. Items with wide appeal, as well as significant value, are particularly welcome, especially those that are unique and theatrically themed. Visit aact.org/auction to schedule your donation soon.

Purchasing Items

Second, beginning May 16, take time to view and bid on auction items online at www.32auctions.com/AACTAuction21. Anyone can view, but log-in will be required for bidding and purchases. Online bidding continues through June 20, and you do not need to be registered for the festival to take part.

Check out the great deals we have already received:

- Travel and Theatre Package for Utah's Hale Centre Theatre in Salt Lake, airfare included.
- MTI standard rental—up to \$1,000—for your next show
- Theatrical Rights Worldwide standard rental—up to \$500 for your next show
- County Seat Theater Co. Performance Package. Enjoy performances and treasures from the County Seat Theater Company of Cloquet, Minnesota.
- Concord Theatricals \$100 Gift Certificate
- One-on-one chats with Broadway Technical Director Tobin Ost
- One-on-one chats with Broadway Director Jeff Calhoun
- One-on-one chats with Broadway Actor Philip Hernandez
- And much more to come!

AACT thanks all who have donated, and looks forward to adding more to the growing list of items.



The AACT Endowment Fund

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will allow the AACT Endowment to provide a grant to each of the 12 companies participating in this year's festival, to help them cover expenses. In addition, auction proceeds will be used to help future national festival participants with the expense of transporting cast, crew, sets, and costumes, to the next, in-person national festival. ♦

AACT 2021 Virtual Design Competition

The 2021 Virtual Design Competition—Best of the Decade will showcase community theatre creativity.

AACT-member theatres and their designers have entered projects occurring between July 1, 2011 and May 1, 2021, in any of five design categories, including Scenic, Lighting, Properties, Costume, and Special Design.

The virtual competition recognizes the coronavirus pandemic's impact on productions this past year, and AACT has accordingly expanded the eligibility period of submitted designs to the past 10 years. Each entry was a design created for an AACT-member theatre production, or a design created by an AACT individual member and used in a realized production by a community theatre.

In the past, designers provided displays to show their work at AACT-Fest. This year, designers have submitted all design display materials online. This allows for an enhanced adjudication experience, since ad-

judicators will have more time to review entries and compose feedback comments. Each entrant will receive a detailed commentary about their design and competition display.

AACT 2021 Design Competition Adjudicators



William Wallace is Professor of Theatre Arts at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He received an M.F.A. in Theatre Design and Technical Direction from the University of Minnesota. He served as an adjudicator for the 2017 AACT Design Competition.



Ann R. Emo is Chair and Professor at the Theater Department at Buffalo State University in Buffalo, New York, where she teaches costume design, stage make-up, and technical theater. She received her M.F.A. from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and worked in the New York City area for several years, designing costumes for stage, dance, film, and opera.

Awards for the AACT 2021 Design Competition will be presented during the Design Competition Adjudication, Saturday, June 19, at 10:30 am.

The AACT 2021 Design Competition is sponsored in part by USITT.
aact.org/design21

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The AACTChat Connection

AACTChat is an online forum for all Virtual AACTFest 2021 participants to share and exchange ideas addressing current and ongoing theatre issues. AACTChats will be held via Zoom on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday during the festival.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday, June 14
4 – 5pm | “Wow” Shows and Hidden Gems
Facilitated by Kristy Meanor, Wetumpka, Alabama
<i>Share shows with smaller casts that make a splash.</i> |
| Tuesday, June 15
2 – 3pm | Unlikely Partnerships
Facilitated by Lucinda Lawrence, Champagne, Illinois
<i>Learn about unlikely community connections to bolster collaboration.</i> |
| Wednesday, June 16
12:30 – 1:30pm | If You Build It, They Will Come
Facilitated by Jamie Ulmer, Beatrice, Nebraska
<i>Discuss the wisdom of adding new programming while reopening and specific projects that work.</i> |
| Friday, June 18
10:30 – 11:30am | Outreach to New Talent
Facilitated by Kristofer Geddie, Venice, Florida
<i>Discover ways to begin reaching out to your community for a more inclusive volunteer base.</i> |
| Saturday, June 19
3 – 4pm | Handing Over the Reins
Facilitated by Jennifer Hamilton, Toledo, Oregon
<i>Reevaluate the best ways to use teen volunteers.</i> |

AACTChats are sponsored in part by Broadway On Demand, a Division of Broadway Licensing

AACTFest 2021 Open Mic Hour

Friday, 6/18/2021

1:45pm – 2:45 pm (ET)

Show us what you got! We invite you to join us for an Open Mic event open to all attendees at AACTFest. Perform your best monologue, sing-a-long, song, or dance! Space is limited to 25 people. Performance is to be 2 minutes or less. Please be hardwired when performing. If any technical glitches do occur, the next performer will be called up. Open Mic is an add-on event of AACTFest registration, with a separate \$20 entry fee to perform. You can sign-up when registering for AACTFest 2021 or contact info@aact.org to add-on.

Open Mic Hour is sponsored in part by Broadway On Demand, a Division of Broadway Licensing.

Virtual AACTFest 2021 Exhibitors

AACTFest 2021 Exhibitors will be located in the Virtual Exhibit Hall, accessed through the Whova app. Visit aact.org/21 for a link to download the Whova app.


- Music Theatre International (MTI), *AACT Diamond Corporate Partner*
- Disney Theatricals, *AACT Platinum Corporate Partner*
- USITT, *AACT Platinum Corporate Partner*
- Arts People, *AACT Gold Corporate Partner*
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Virtual AACTFest 2021 Special Thanks

A Special thanks to the **2021 AACT Festival Committee:**

Jim Walker, Chair and Vice President of Festivals
Kay Armstrong – Festival Commission Chair
Chad-Alan Carr – AACT YouthFest Liaison
Kristofer Geddie – aactWorldFest Liaison
Kristi Quinn – AACT NewPlayFest Chair
Lori Chase – aactWorldFest Liaison
Bob Frame – AACTFest Technical and AACT Design Competition
Chris Serface – AACT President
Eugene Irby – AACTFest Technical
Rich Gannon – AACT Design Competition
Ron Ziegler, AACT staff - Festival Coordinator

The National Adjudication Team:

The adjudicators who reviewed and selected the 12 National Companies from the 40+ theaters who applied to AACT, with 30-minute videos, for the national festival, Virtual AACTFest 2021.

Kay Armstrong – Adjudication Coordinator
Kathy Pingel – Adjudicator Orientation
Emily Anderson
Paul Elliot
Morrie Enders
Steve Krempasky
Sara Phoenix
Jennifer York
Dennis Yslas

National Adjudicators:

Allen Ebert
Amy Wratchford
Jeff Calhoun
Alternate - Richard St. Peter

Workshops/Events:

Allen Ebert - Education Committee Chair
Kathy Pingel – AACT Education Coordinator
Jamie Ulmer – AACTFest Workshop Team
Nancy Eppert – AACTFest Workshop Team
Sharon Burum – AACTChat Coordinator
Kris Geddie – Open Mic/Keynote
Ron Cameron-Lewis – Open Mic

Technical Volunteers:

Geoffrey Baker
JR Bornemann
Marcus Chapman (AACTFest 2021 Intern)
Chuck Goddeeris
Ashley Parks

And very special thanks to all the AACT members, including the Festival Commission, Region Representatives, and Festival Committee who helped in the ever-evolving festival process that is Virtual AACTFest 2021.

Additional Thanks:

Colvin Theatrical
Broadway On Demand
Music Theatre International
subplotstudio.com

AACT 2020 and 2021 National Awards

The 2020 and 2021 AACT National Awards will be presented at an awards presentation during Virtual AACTFest 2021, Saturday, June 19. The 2020 Award recipients were featured in the May/June 2020 *Spotlight* and can be reviewed at aact.org/spotlight-archive. The 2021 Award recipients will be featured in the July/August 2021 *Spotlight*.

Art Cole Lifetime of Leadership Award

(2020) Kathy Pingel
(2021) Dennis Gilmore

Diamond Crown Organization Award

(2020) Theatre Memphis
(2021) Tacoma Little Theatre

Twink Lynch Organizational Achievement Award

(2020) Shawnee Little Theatre
(2021) Prescott Center for the Arts

David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award

(2020) Norm McPhee
(2021) Donna Fisher

Robert E. Gard Superior Volunteer Award

(2020) Susie Polito
(2020) Debra Robison
(2020) Charles Wilson
(2021) Jude Knight
(2021) Linda Blystone
(2021) Emma Bradley

Distinguished Merit Award

(2020) Kristi Gautsch
(2020) Steven Helsel
(2020) Pamela Livingstone
(2021) Joseph Barton
(2021) Charles Corritore

Special Recognition Award

(2020) Richard Roberts
(2020) Dane Winters
(2021) Stephen Peithman
(2021) Colleen Stock

Corporate Award

(2021) Broadway On Demand

Mort Clark International Achievement Award

(2020) Tim Jebsen
(2021) Annette Proconier

Shining Star Award

(2020) Chad-Alan Carr
(2021) Seth Sponhouse
(2021) Lou Ursone

AACT Fellows 2021

Bob Frame
Kristofer Geddie
Jon Skaalen

The AACT 2020 and 2021 National Awards presentation is sponsored in part by Dramatic Publishing.

Virtual AACTFest 2021 National Festival Question?

Virtual AACTFest 2021 Staff:

General Virtual AACTFest 2021 Questions aact.org/21
AACT Office info@aact.org 817-732-3177

AACTFest 2021 National Festival Registration aact.org/21
Karen Matheny karen@aact.org 817-732-3177, x2

AACTFest 2021 Operations and Logistics
Jill Patchin jill@aact.org
Quiana Clark-Roland quiana@aact.org 817-732-3177, x5

AACTFest 2021 Rules aact.org/handbook
Ron Ziegler ron@aact.org
Jim Walker jimlwalker@abe.midco.net

National Company Coordinator
Ron Ziegler ron@aact.org

National Company Video Production
Colvin Theatrical cody@colvintheatrical.com 616-893-5353

National Company Broadcasts
Broadway On Demand broadwayondemand.com

AACT Corporate Partners/AACTFest Sponsorships
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Exhibitors aact.org/exhibits
Darlene DeLorenzo darlene@aact.org 512-699-6836

Workshops aact.org/workshops
Nanct Eppert, Jamie Ulmer workshops@aact.org

AACT Chat
Sharon Burum sburum@att.net

AACT Open Mic
Kristofer Geddie kgeddie@venicetheatre.net

AACT Silent Auction aact.org/auction
Kristi Quinn kquinn1655@msn.com

Adjudication Seminar aact.org/seminar
AACT office info@aact.org 817-732-3177
Instructors: Kathy Pingel kpingel88@yahoo.com
Kristi Quinn kquinn1655@msn.com

AACT Design Competition aact.org/design21
Bob Frame designcompetition@aact.org
Rich Gannon designcompetition@aact.org

AACT Board and Committee Meetings aact.org/mtgs
AACT office info@aact.org 817-732-3177

AACTFest 2021 Marketing and Promotions
David Cockerell david@aact.org 817-732-3177, x3

AACT 2021 Virtual Youth Theatre Conference aact.org/youth
July 12 – 16, 2021

AACT office info@aact.org 817-732-3177
Instructors: Jennifer Hamilton jvbhamilton@gmail.com
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AACT Virtual Youth Conference 2021

Building the next generation of arts leaders
through the power of theatre

July 12 – 16, 2021, 10 – 2 daily, (Central Time)

The AACT Youth Theatre Conference is a week-long opportunity for youth to discover paths to leadership in their community theatres. That path could be through acting, directing, technical theatre, stage management, marketing or another avenue of interest. Unlike other conferences, this one cultivates individual interests, as well as connecting youth from across the nation. This dynamic virtual conference is open to students ages 12–18.

Work with other youth from around the country

Attendees will be divided into subgroups and work with an AACT intern to develop unique ideas on inclusion and equity within their home theatres, and around the country. These ideas/proposals will be presented to the other groups, and a representative from each will be invited to present the proposal to the AACT Board of Trustees.

Watch and discuss selected performances from AACTFest 2021

Each day, conference attendees will watch one of the shows performing at Virtual AACTFest 2021, and discuss the performance afterward. Since AACTFest 2021 is completely virtual and all 12 regional winners will be filmed, you'll have the opportunity to see some of the best community theatre from around the country.

Meet with professionals in the industry

Each day, students will have opportunities to hear from directors, set designers, costume designers, playwrights, and current Broadway performers. The presenters below are only some of those who will be sharing their experiences in professional theatre.



Darren Canady is a playwright whose work has been produced at American Conservatory Theatre, Aurora Theatre, the Alliance Theatre, Congo Square Theater, Horizon Theatre, London's Old Vic Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and American Blues Theater, among others. Recipient of many awards, his play *You're Invited* appeared in *The Best American Short Plays 2010–2011*.

He is an alum of Carnegie Mellon University, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and The Juilliard School, and is a former member of Primary Stages' Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group. Darren is also an artistic affiliate with American Blues Theater and Congo Square Theatre, and is a Core Writer for the Playwright's Center. He currently teaches playwriting at the University of Kansas.



Nikki Renée Daniels' Broadway appearances include *Company* (Jenny), *The Book of Mormon* (Nabulungi), *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (Clara), *Les Misérables* (Fantine), *Anything Goes*, *Promises, Promises*, *Aida*, *Nine*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other New York credits include Martha in *1776* at City Center Encores, Rose in *The Secret Garden* at David Geffen Hall, and Tracy in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Most recently, she played Angelica in *Hamilton* at the CIBC Theater in Chicago.

On television, Nikki has appeared on *Chappelle's Show*, *Madam Secretary*, and *The Sound of Music: Live*. She has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, and with symphony orchestras across the U.S. and Canada. She holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Jeff Kready has performed on Broadway as Monty Navarro in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Tony Elliot in *Billy Elliot the Musical*, and *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean understudy). Most recently, he was standby for the title role of Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels in *Tootsie*. Regional credits include Tommy in *Brigadoon* (Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera), Ted Hanover in *Holiday Inn* (Paper Mill Playhouse), Mr. Snow in *Carousel* (Goodspeed Opera House), and David Sedaris's one-man-show, *Santaland Diaries* (Hartford TheaterWorks). Television credits include *The Code*, *The Good Fight*, and a recurring role on *Elementary*. He has performed as guest soloist with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Grand Teton Music Festival, Seattle Chamber Music Society, and Topeka Symphony, and can be heard on the album, *The Broadway Tenors* (JAY Records).

Registration: \$100. Space is limited, registration deadline is July 1.

Registration and more information is available at aact.org/youth.



Paola Noguera

AACT Youth Theatre Conferences are fun. Participants share laughter as they learn about performing during the 2019 AACT Youth Theatre Conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

This dynamic youth festival will be led by Jennifer Hamilton.



Jennifer Hamilton served as Education Director for Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy in Topeka, Kansas, from 2002 until 2014, where she administered year-round classes for ages four through adult, helped to create a teen improvisation performance troupe, developed outreach programming for area schools and underserved communities, and directed over 50 youth and theatre for young audiences productions. She currently works in partnership with the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, providing after school theatre classes for area youth. Jennifer earned a B.A. in Theatre from Sterling College and an M.A. in Theatre and Film from the University of Kansas.

Jennifer has been involved with AACT for over a decade, leading the Education Directors track for the 2018 TEAMS conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, facilitating the Youth Leadership Conference at AACTFest 2017 in Rochester, Minnesota, facilitating the 2008 Education Directors Workshop in Kansas City, Missouri, and serving on both the AACT Education and Workshop committees. ♦

AACTFest 2023 Location Announced

The 2023 AACT National Festival and Conference will be June 12 - 17, 2023 in Louisville, Kentucky, with performances at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts.

Louisville was originally to be the setting for AACTFest 2021, but due to the pandemic, the festival went virtual, instead. With health restrictions lifted, the 2023 festival will once again allow for in-person gathering for performances, workshops, socials, and sightseeing.

The conference hotel will be the Hyatt Regency Louisville, located in the heart of downtown and the tourism district, and within walking distance of the festival and conference locations.

Pegged as one of the “10 Best New Food Cities” in America, Louisville offers top-class restaurants, new-age Southern cuisine, and the one and only “Urban Bourbon Experience.” The city’s one-of-a-kind attractions include legendary Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, Speed Art Museum, and the Muhammad Ali Center. To learn more, visit gotolouisville.com.

AACT is excited to host the festival in such a culturally vibrant and charming Southern city, which, as Trip Advisor notes, is “only growing better with time, earning its place as one of the top places to travel in the U.S.”

We are looking forward to seeing “Ya’ll” there!

More details will be available on aact.org, following Virtual AACT-Fest 2021. ♦



The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, performance location for AACTFest 2023



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Much of the work of the American Association of Community Theatre would not be possible without the generous support of our Corporate Partners, who are listed below. We thank each of them for their commitment to AACT—and to the work of community theatres everywhere.

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AACT 2021-2022 Membership Fees

For more than 30 years, AACT has been committed to providing theatres with the best, most timely resources to help you succeed.

Annual AACT memberships are valid September 1 through August 31. Monthly AACT memberships are also available. See below for more information, or visit aact.org/fees.

Discount on AACT Events

- AACTFest 2021, June 14-20, 2021
- AACT Member Roundtables
- Fall Webinar Series

Individual members receive:

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- Peer-to-peer networking with other organizational members and theatre professionals nationwide
- Use of AACT Membership logo and decal

Learn more about membership benefits at aact.org/benefits.

How to Join or Renew

To join or renew your membership, go to aact.org/join.

Note: If you or your theatre are having financial difficulties, reach out to Karen Matheny at karen@aact.org to discuss payment plan options.

If you or your organization have previously not paid electronically, we ask that you start doing so when you renew online. (If you require assistance, let us know by calling 817-732-3177.) AACT will be moving all membership join/renew processes online for the 2023 membership year, after which paper invoicing will be available only by request.

Special Offers for First-Time Members

- First-time organizations can receive a 50% discount on their second year!
- Join before September 1, 2021, and receive the remainder of the 2020-2021 membership year at no additional cost.

2021-22 Membership Fees

Individual Annual Fees

Individual: \$80
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First Time Individual: \$60
Youth: \$15
Couple: \$130
Military/Wounded Warrior: Complimentary

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Individual: \$9
Senior/Retired Military: \$6

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\$500,000-\$999,999: \$570
\$1 Million and Over: \$955
State Associations: \$75

Organization Monthly Fees

Under \$10,000: \$9
\$10,000-\$24,999: \$11
\$25,000-\$99,999: \$15
\$100,000-\$249,999: \$27
\$250,000-\$499,999: \$33
\$500,000-\$999,999: \$49
\$1 Million and Over: \$81

Since we don't know how long the effects of the global coronavirus crisis will continue to impact theatres, we will continue making pandemic resources available to both AACT members and non-members. Visit our website at aact.org/covid.



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AACT Web Power

Where did I read that piece on online video marketing? Or that article on unconventional performance spaces? What was the name of that production I saw at AACTFest 2017?

Answers to questions like these can be found quickly in the *Spotlight* magazine archives at aact.org/spotlight-archive.

Once on the archive page, you'll see the contents of every issue of *Spotlight* back to 2013, plus a link to let you view, download or print a PDF copy of that article—or the entire issue. Regularly updated, the *Spotlight* archive is always there when you need it. (The archive is also accessible from the site's drop-down menu, under Networking.)

Watch for Web Power in every issue of Spotlight—and learn how to get the most from the AACT website.

Spotlight on Discounter



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Broadway Media believes in making participation in the performing arts more accessible. By utilizing the company's well-known Scenic Projections (which start at \$450) with a basic projector, your theatre can create a visually dynamic online production—keeping it uniquely theatrical, regardless of space, place, or budget. Scenic Projections are perfectly tailored to your script, making performing incredible shows simple and affordable.

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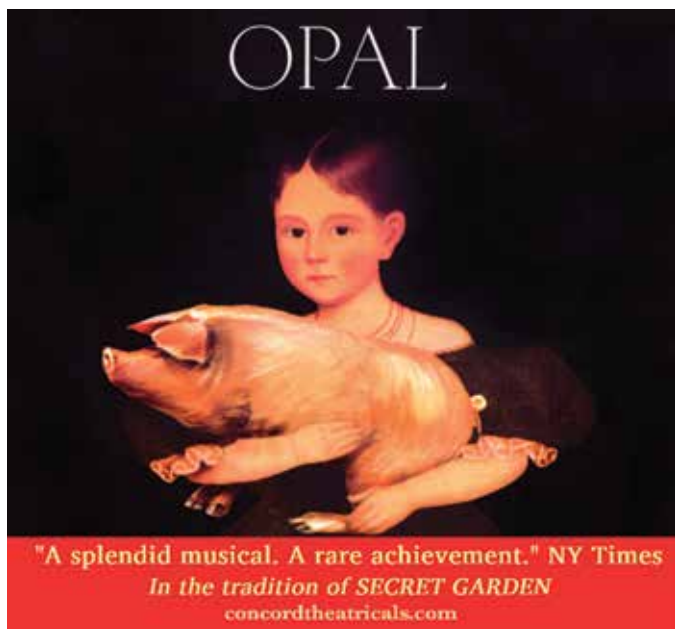
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To learn more about
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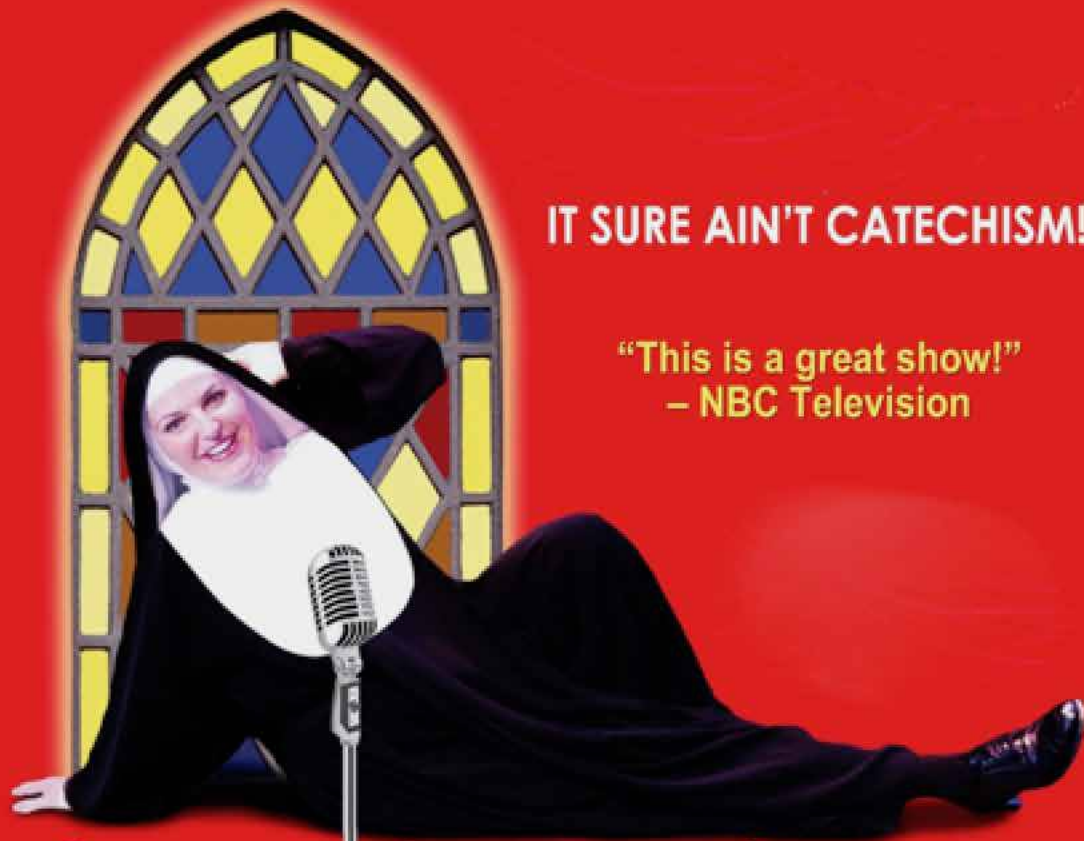
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When	What/Who	Where	Information
June 14 -20	AACTFest 2021	Virtual	817-732-3177 x2 aact.org/aactfest-2021
June 14 -20	Design Competition	Virtual	817-732-3177 x2 aact.org/aactfest-2021
June 14 -20	Adjudication Seminar	Virtual	817-732-3177 x2 aact.org/aactfest-2021

For dates further ahead, check the website: aact.org/calendar



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AACT Youth Theatre Conference 2019, Gettysburg, PA

July 12-16, 2021

Online Sessions
Daily
10am - 2pm

aact.org/youth

The AACT Youth Theatre Conference 2021 is a week-long opportunity for youth to discover paths to leadership in their community theatres. The path could be through acting, directing, technical theatre, stage management, marketing, or another avenue of interest. Unlike other conferences, this one cultivates individual interests, as well as connecting youth from across the nation. This dynamic virtual conference is open to students ages 12-18, and activities will be held in large-group and small-group sessions, as well as through individualized instruction.