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Roald Dahl's

# Matilda

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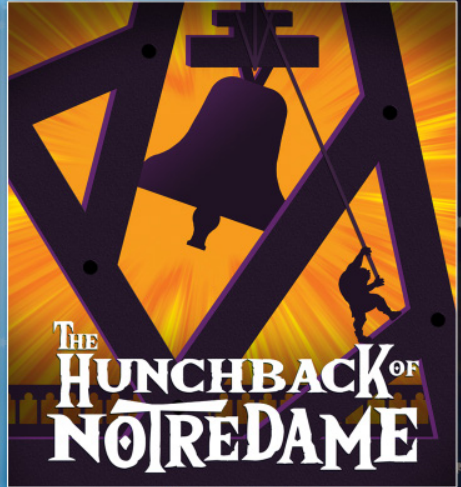
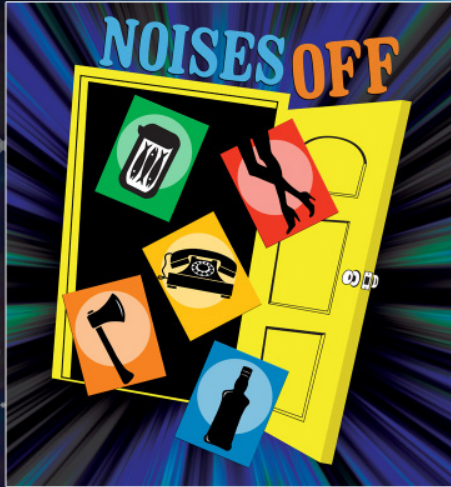
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Roald Dahl*

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### Director's Notes...

"All the reading she had done had given her a view of life that [her family] had never seen." -Roald Dahl, *Matilda*.

I was around 7 years old when I first read Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. I loved books and reading from a very young age, and voraciously read everything I could get my hands on. I made up and wrote my own stories and escaped into the adventures and worlds that books provided. And, like Matilda, I sometimes felt very alone and different from the people around me. But when I found her, I found a kindred spirit and realized a truth that Dahl so aptly describes in his novel: "So Matilda's strong young mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone." It was a message that I've carried with me into adulthood, and one that is woven into Matilda's story. *Matilda* also taught me that "just because you find that life's not fair, it doesn't mean that you just have to grin and bear it..." It's another powerful message throughout the show that resonated with me as a child, and one that I think is so important and especially powerful today. The idea that you can "change your story," that no matter how big or small you are, no matter where you come from, or how other people perceive you, you have the power to change the world. That power and magic reside inside of you, and you are responsible for how your story ends. And no matter how small or powerless you feel, with bravery (and the help of friends), you CAN make a difference. I hope that audiences walk away remembering that you can "change the story," that you are not alone, and sometimes it's okay to "be a little bit naughty."



*Allison Maxwell*

Matilda Jr. Director

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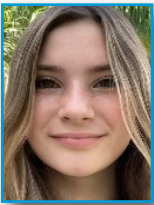
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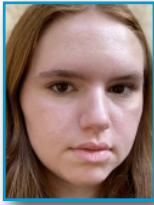
## ~Meet The Cast~



**Noelle Blasingame** (Bruce/Ensemble) is so thankful and happy to be returning to the Athens stage in *Matilda, Jr!* She has been seen most recently at the Athens in *Scrooge, the Musical* (Belinda Cratchit/Ensemble) and in *Singing in the Rain, Jr* (Lina Lamont). Some of her other previous roles include Stokes in *Carrie the Musical* at Theater West End, Alice in Ivy Hawn's *Alice in Wonderland* and a Solo & Group participant in the Shoestring Theater's Young Artists Showcase. She loves her Athens Theatre and ATYA family and wants to thank Ms. Angelyn, Ms. Sam, Ms. Lauren, and she would also like to thank her family, and friends for always being there to cheer her on!



**Kate Budzinski** (Lavender/Ensemble) is excited to be performing at the Athens Theatre again! Some of her favorite roles at the Athens include Pepper in *Annie*, ensemble in *Elf, The Musical*, ensemble in *Shrek TYA*, and most recently, Jenny in *Scrooge, the Musical*. Kate is a student at St. Barnabas Episcopal School and enjoys acting and singing, golf, and playing piano. She would like to thank Ms. Angelyn from the Athens Theater Youth Academy, Mrs. Hays, her parents, and her friends for always supporting her.



**Marion Cass** (Mechanic/Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of this production! She has been involved with Athens Theatre Youth Academy taking classes and attending theater camps for the past year. This is Marion's second time on the Athens' stage after a production of *Touzled* with Preps Dance School & Company. She was also a part of an online production with the Orlando Repertory Theatre. Marion is homeschooled, has grown up in DeLand and has developed a love for every aspect of performing arts. She wants to extend a special thank you to all the ATYA teachers for helping her improve in every area, from voice to dance technique, and for their unwavering support. And, of course, a huge thank you to her family for their constant support and for always being there for her.

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## ~Meet The Cast~



**Lorelei Cook** (Matilda) Lorelei is thrilled to be making her Athens Theatre debut in the role of Matilda! Eek! Lorelei was born in Orlando and currently lives in Ormond Beach where she enjoys the beach. She is a devoted student of dance and music and has previously performed at Theater South, Halifax Repertory Theatre and Children's Music Theater Workshop. Previous credits include *Matilda, Jr.* (Lavender), *Spectacular! Spectacular!*, *Lights of Jingle Bell Hill*, *Frozen, Jr.*, *Seussical the Musical, Jr.*, and *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* She is a proud student of Pine Trail Elementary and Amanda's Dance Studio. Love, thanks and hugs to Mommy, Daddy, Chase, Rocco and her new puppy... Matilda!



**Isobel Cloudman** (Nigel) is thrilled to be back on stage at the Athens Theatre. Isobel is in the 7th grade at DeLand Middle School and is Vice President of the Beta Club, but her passion is all things theater. Isobel most recently portrayed Kathy Cratchit in *Scrooge, the Musical*, the "Little Girl" in *Ragtime* at the Athens and has also been in *Elf*, *Seussical the Musical, Jr.*, *Annie*, and *Shrek TYA*. Isobel is incredibly grateful to her village for always keeping her smiling!

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## ~Meet The Cast~



**Skylar Deyo** (Big Kid/Russian/Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Athens debut! Skylar is a sophomore in the IB program at DeLand High School and is involved with the theater program there. Although this is her first time on the Athens stage, Skylar has been involved with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy since she was 7 years old. When she is not onstage, Skylar enjoys playing piano or sewing. Previous credits include *The Elf on a Shelf Must Die* (DHS Hill Street Theater) *Rent* (Athens Theatre Youth Academy), and *Hairspray, Jr.* (Millennium Musicians). Skylar would like to thank her family for supporting her theater journey.



**Emma Ellis** (Mrs. Wormwood/Ensemble) is thrilled to return to the Athens stage. Recently, she performed as Lizzy/Ensemble in *Scrooge, the Musical* at the Athens, as well as Mrs. Beaver in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at the Shoestring Theatre in Lake Helen. Previous performances at the Athens include an Ensemble role in *Seussical, Jr.* and Shenzi in *The Lion King, Jr.* Emma has also appeared as Miss Trunchbull in *Matilda, Jr.*, Jovie in *Elf, Jr.* and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* at Ivy Hawensemble Show Choir and Ivy Haw Jr. Thespian troupe. Emma would like to thank her teachers, friends, and family for their support and encouragement.



**Leona Gibson** (Alice/Ensemble) Leona is 11 years old and is home-schooled. Her favorite things to do are play piano, act, and read. Some of her favorite roles have been Woodstock in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Beverly in *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, and Young Elsa in *Frozen, Jr.* She wants to thank her Mom and Dad for being excellent chauffeurs to and from rehearsals, her little brothers for being her best and cutest cheerleaders, and everyone at the Athens for welcoming her into the cast of *Matilda!* Enjoy the show!



**Kailee Gleason** (Amanda/Ensemble) is so excited to be on the stage at the Athens Theatre! Kailee has been dancing since she was three. She is a student at George Marks Elementary and enjoys dancing, singing, and painting. She has danced at The Little Studio and East Coast Performing Arts. Kailee would like to thank Ms. Angelyn from Athens Theatre Youth Academy, her family, and her friends for their support.

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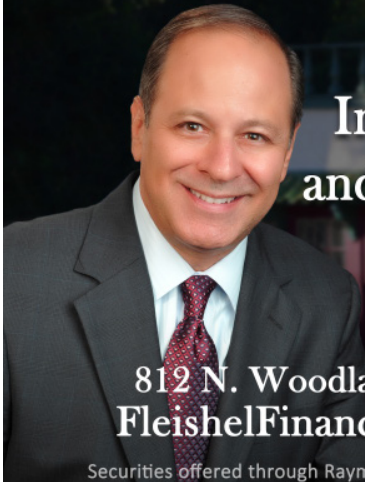
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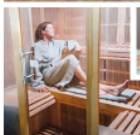
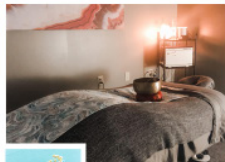
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## ~Meet The Cast~



**Brianna Gonzalez** (Eric/Ensemble) is delighted to be performing for the first time in *Matilda, Jr.* Brianna is currently in 8th grade. She has performed in numerous showcases and productions, some of her favorite roles including Star-to-be in *Annie*, Ethel McCormack in *Footloose*, and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. When she's not performing, she enjoys going to theme parks and traveling. She would like to thank her family for all the encouragement given to her throughout the years. She would like to especially thank her mom for driving her and supporting her no matter what, She also extends a huge thanks to all her past teachers for helping her thrive. Above all, she would like to thank God for the opportunities she has been given.



**D'Montrae Harris** (Escapologist/Rudolpho/Ensemble) is very excited to be returning for another show at the Athens Theatre! D'Montrae is currently in the 11th grade at DeLand High School where he participates in the Theatre, Dance, and Choral programs. Other credits include Cosmo Brown in *Singing in the Rain, Jr.*, Harlem/Ensemble in *Ragtime*, Michael Hobbs in *ELF: the musical*, Ensemble in *Young Frankenstein*, Dance Ensemble/Associate Choreographer in *All Shook Up*, and many other blessed opportunities. D'Montrae would like to thank all the DeLand High arts teachers for their constant help and guidance throughout his high school years. He would also like to thank Angelyn Rhode and the ATYA team for the extensive training and love throughout the years. ENJOY THE SHOW!

Instagram: @dmontraeharris

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## ~Meet The Cast~



**Gracie Holland** (Miss Honey) is so excited to be back on the Athens stage! She's currently a senior at DeLand High School, where she is involved in IB, Chorus Council (President 22-23), Hillstreet Theatre, and Dolce Voce. Her previous roles include Yvette in *Clue*, Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain, Jr.*, Teen Fiona/Peter Pan in *Shrek TYA*, and Youth Ensemble

in *Elf: The Musical*. Gracie has been performing for 11 years and is planning on studying musical theatre in college. She would like to thank her choir directors Ross Cawthon and Victoria Rathbun, as well as Kristina Cawthon, Angelyn Rhode, and Carly Clark for their guidance and encouragement. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support. She hopes you enjoy this wonderful show, and will always keep learning and loving!



**Elliott Kelton** (Acrobat/Ensemble) has been warmed by the Athens Theatre spotlight since she was just three years old and is elated to be back again for *Matilda, Jr.* You may remember Elliott from *Shrek TYA*, *The Lion King, Jr.* or any of the bi-annual recitals she participated in with Preps Dance Company. Elliott is grateful for her friends on and off the stage, and her family behind the scenes. She knows she could not do this without her production team and you, the audience. Thank you and enjoy the show!



**Sophie Kountanis** (Cook/Ensemble) is a freshman at DeLand High School and is excited to be returning to the Athens stage! Last seen as the Singing Telegram in the high school production of *Clue*, she was also seen as Adella in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* at The Ritz Theater, and Assistant Number One in the Athens production of *Singing in The Rain, Jr.* Her previous appearance in *Matilda, Jr.* at the Athens Theatre Youth Academy summer camp in 2021 made Sophie eager to come

back to this magical world. She is grateful to all of her friends and family for their support and counsel throughout this journey.



# Sanz & Sanz

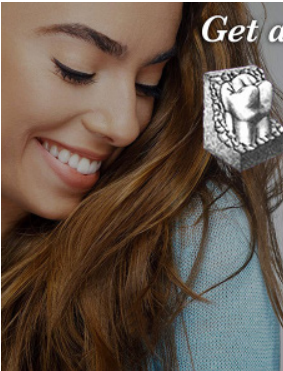
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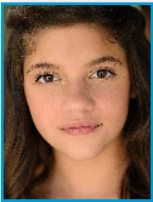
## ~Meet The Cast~



**Farentino Lennox** (Agatha Trunchbull) is very appreciative of the opportunity to return on stage with the Athens. Farentino is attending his final year in high school at DeLand High as an IB student. There he is involved in the theatre, dance, and chorus programs. He is grateful for the opportunities given to him, being able to play the roles of Aladdin in *Aladdin*, Emmett in *Legally Blonde*, Broadway Melody Host in *Singing in the Rain, Jr.*, Ensemble in *Elf: The Musical*, and many other wonderful roles. He is very excited to take on the role of Mrs. Trunchbull on the Athens stage and hopes you enjoy the show! He would like to thank his mother and grandmother for encouraging him to pursue the arts and the DeLand High Arts teachers, and the ATYA staff for molding him and teaching him in the world of performing arts. Instagram: @tinolennox



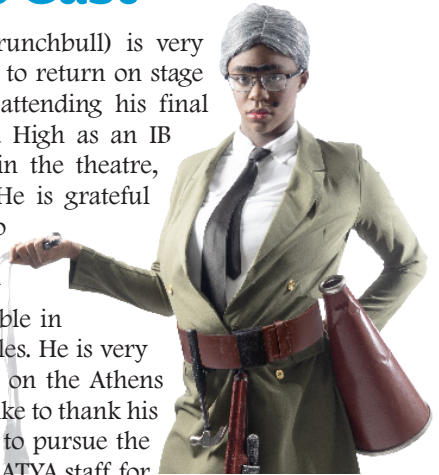
**Collette C. Martin** (Sergei/Ensemble) is happy to be back on the Athens stage! She was last seen in *Scrooge, the Musical* at the Athens Theatre. Past credits include Ensemble in *Seussical, Jr.*, Vocal Artist in *Shoestring's The 9th Annual Young Artists Showcase*, Dorothy Brown in *Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr.*, and Vivian Kensington in *Legally Blonde, Jr.* She's also worked behind the scenes in other Athens productions. Collette has taken classes in the performing arts from a young age, has been with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy (ATYA) for over 10 years and is currently serving as a Jr Counselor with ATYA. She was recently awarded a full scholarship as a Jack and Martha Apgar Young Music Scholar in Voice with Stetson University's Community School of Music. She would like to thank educators Angelyn Rhode and Ashley Nunez for their guidance, her family for their support, and the cast and crew who have worked hard to put this show together.



**Laura I. Ortiz-Cabrera** (Hortensia/Ensemble) is back at the Athens Theatre! She was first cast as Wickersham #3 in *Seussical, Jr.* back in 2020. After 2 years dedicated fully to competitive dance in Orlando, she's back on the Athens stage as Hortensia for the musical *Matilda, Jr!* She has had other appearances with the Dance program at Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange and Port Orange Family Days. Laura enjoys practicing the drums, tap dancing, and is excited to once more be a part of this great production!



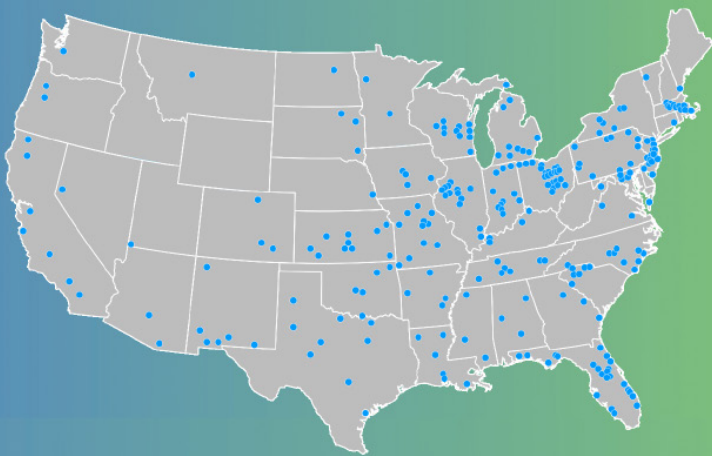
**Tessa Ruth** (Mrs. Phelps) Is very thrilled to be back onstage at the Athens Theatre! She was last seen as Ugly Duckling in *Shrek TYA* on this very stage. She'd like to give a huge thanks to the cast and crew for really bringing this story to life. Tessa hopes you don't find the show too revolting but instead are inspired by it. Indeed, it is inspiring to see what it's like to stand up to the bullies in your life. She hopes you enjoy this show as much as we do! Thanks for coming out! Lots of Love~ Tess <3



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## ~Meet The Cast~



**Robinson Rosenberg** (Mr. Wormwood/Ensemble) is thrilled to be back at the Athens Theatre in a mainstage production. Introduced to the theater through improv/acting classes, followed by a summer of fun performing as Dexter in *Singing in the Rain, Jr.*, Robinson particularly enjoys the evil mastermind roles. He previously stole the show as Plankton with his mic-dropping rhymes in *SpongeBob SquarePants*, at Center Stage Theatricals. Other performances include *Beauty and Beast, Jr.* and *Lion King, Jr.* where he owned his role as Young Simba. Robinson is no stranger to the stage due to his musical background at the Cuchetti School of Music in New Smyrna Beach where he's received 2 Superior Awards for his performance in guitar and where he was chosen as a soloist singer for Christmas in the Park of Port Orange. Over the years, he has enjoyed weekly voice, guitar, violin and drum lessons at the school. He is humbled and grateful for his chance to perform again at Athens!



**Xavier J. Soto-Colon** (Tommy/Michael/Ensemble) is excited to make his debut on the Athens stage. He is currently an 8th grader at Ivy Hawn where he's been a member of the Show Choir for 3 years and where he recently joined the school's Jr. Thespians Troupe. After participating in the ATYA summer program production of *Singin' in the Rain, Jr.* last July, he realized how much he enjoys theater and performing. Since then, he's been taking voice lessons at the ATYA. He likes to spend his free time playing video games and watching Anime. Xavi thanks the Athens Theatre and the creative team of *Matilda, Jr.* for this opportunity and his family for all their love and support.



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# Roald Dahl's Matilda THE MUSICAL JR.



## ~Cast~

Lorelei Cook.....	Matilda
Brianna Gonzalez.....	Eric/Ensemble
Kailee Gleason.....	Amanda/Ensemble
Noelle Blasingame.....	Bruce/Ensemble
Laura I. Ortiz-Cabrera.....	Hortensia/Ensemble
Leona Gibson.....	Alice/Ensemble
Xavier J. Soto-Colon.....	Tommy/Michael/Ensemble
Kate Budzinski.....	Lavender/Ensemble
Isobel Cloudman.....	Nigel/Ensemble
Robinson Rosenberg.....	Mr. Wormwood/Ensemble
Emma Ellis.....	Mrs. Wormwood/Ensemble
Tessa Ruth.....	Mrs. Phelps
D'Montrae Harris.....	Escapologist/Rudolpho/Ensemble
Elliott Kelton.....	Acrobat, Ensemble
Marion Cass.....	Mechanic/Ensemble
Gracie Holland.....	Miss Honey
Farentino Lennox.....	Agatha Trunchbull
Collette C Martin.....	Sergei/Ensemble
Skylar Deyo.....	Big Kid/Russian/Ensemble
Sophie Kountanis.....	Cook/Ensemble



## ~Production Team

Artistic Director.....	Craig Uppercue
Director.....	Allison Maxwell
Choreographer.....	Lyndsay Fuller Michalek
Music Director.....	Tori Rathbun
Costume Designer.....	Amanda Tyler
Lighting Designer/ATD.....	Nicholas Hogan
Sound Designer.....	Lamar Hickley
Scenic Builder/TD/Prop Designer.....	Tori Oakes

## ~Act 1~

MIRACLE - Eric, Tommy, Amanda, Bruce, Lavender, Hortensia, Nigel, Alice, Dads, Moms, Kids

NAUGHTY - Matilda

ACROBAT STORY 1 (PART1) - Matilda, Acrobat, Escapologist

SCHOOL SONG - Nigel, Tommy, Lavender, Amanda, Alice, Bruce, Big Kids, Little Kids

THE HAMMER - Trunchbull, Big Kids, Little Kids, Miss Honey

NAUGHTY - Superglue (part 2) - Matilda

CHOKEY CHANT - All Kids

THIS LITTLE GIRL - Miss Honey

BRUCE (PART 1) - Trunchbull, Miss Honey, Lavender, Nigel, Bruce, Hortensia, Amanda, Tommy, All Kids

## ~Act 2~

WHEN I GROW UP - Bruce, Tommy, Amanda, Eric, Alice, Lavender, Nigel, Hortensia, Miss Honey, Matilda, All Kids

THE SMELL OF REBELLION - Trunchbull, All Kids

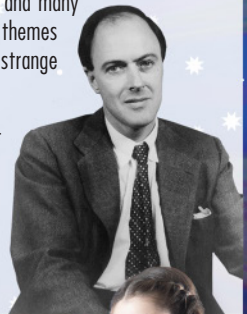
QUIET - Matilda, Trunchbull

REVOLTING - Bruce, Tommy, Eric, Lavender, Hortensia, Nigel, Alice, All Kids

*"She felt fairly  
CONFIDENT that with  
a great deal of practice  
and effort, she would  
SUCCEED in the end."*

*Matilda* was originally a book written by Roald Dahl. Best known for being a prolific children's author (with famous works like *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, and many more), his body of work draws largely from his lived experiences. Many characters and themes in his books (and especially in *Matilda*) can be traced back to the strict schools and strange experiences of his childhood.

Dahl lost his father at a young age and his mother sent him to a series of strict boarding schools. In these settings Dahl rebelled and became known as boisterous and untamed. Disenchanted with school. Years later, when asked, his daughter stated that her father's novel was, in part, about his love for books: "I think that there was a deep genuine fear within his heart that books were going to go away and he wanted to write about it." (Thank goodness he did!)



## & Technical Crew~

Production Manager.....	Frank Ramirez
Production Coordinator.....	Diane McLean
Stage Manager.....	Logan Reynolds
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Hali Brown
Costume & Prop Shop Manager .....	Amy Uppercue
Run Crew .....	Mak Turner
Lightboard Operator.....	Madison Thompson
Spotlight Operators .....	Zoe Turner








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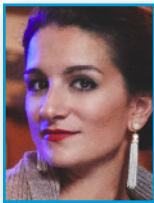
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## ~Meet The Production Team~



**Allison Maxwell** (Director) is so excited for her Athens directorial debut with *Matilda, Jr.* after serving as choreographer for several Athens shows, like *Shrek*, *Mamma Mia!*, and this past holiday's smash hit, *Scrooge, the Musical* (the most attended show in the theatre's history!). She is also so proud to be a part of the first all-female creative team at the Athens and to be working with such talented and amazing women. Along with her husband, Allison is the owner of the Emmy Award-winning Studio Creative Group here in DeLand. She has studied and worked with dance greats such as Garth Fagan, Jean Pierre-Bonnefoux, and Jared Grimes, and has served as choreographer for shows such as *Annie*, *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Wiz* at theatres across the Southeast. Favorite onstage performances include roles in *Spamalot*, *9 to 5*, *Anything Goes*, and *Sweet Charity*. For over twenty years, Allison has been an award-winning dance instructor and choreographer. She currently teaches everything from Ballet to HipHop at Children's Musical Theater Workshop in Ormond Beach. Currently, Allison is working towards a Master's degree in Creative Writing and Literature at Harvard University. She would like to thank her husband Joey and daughter Delaney for keeping her feet on the ground and her head in the clouds. She sends love to her entire Athens family for enabling her to do what she loves, while being surrounded by such incredible people!



**Lyndsay Fuller Michalek** (Choreographer) grew up dancing in the local area where she had the opportunity to perform in Special Holiday Events with Walt Disney World. While attending Stetson University, she choreographed for the Stetson Top Hats Dance Team. After graduate school, she continued teaching in the area until she opened Preps Dance School & Co. in 2008. There she produced and directed 18 theatre productions, received 17 choreography awards, and held 3 National Titles. Lyndsay is excited to be back at the Athens Theatre choreographing her first repertory show and cannot wait to see what the future has in store.

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## ~Meet The Production Team~



**Tori Rathbun** (Music Director) is very excited to be back at the Athens for another youth production! Though you are most likely to find Tori at DeLand High School teaching the budding singers in DHS's fabulous Choral Program, she also holds a variety of Music Direction credits throughout central Florida. Some past favorites include *Shrek TYA*, *Seussical, Jr.*, *White Christmas*, *Urinetown*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Fantasticks*, and *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow*. Outside the realm of Music Direction, Tori has performed in a wide variety of theatres in central Florida, including our very own Athens--where she was last seen as Emma Carew in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Most recently, she was the Witch in *Into the Woods* at Shoestring Theatre. To my daughter Elliott--your mummy says you're a miracle!



**Frank Ramirez** (Production Manager) is excited to celebrate his sixth season with the Athens Theatre. Directing credits here at the Athens include *Rock of Ages*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *9 to 5*, *Mamma Mia!* and *CLUE*, for which he has received Best Direction of a Play from Broadway World Regional Awards Orlando. In the past, Frank has served as Company Manager for Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry, Assistant Company Manager/Resident Stage Manager for the Tony Award-Winning, Broadway Producing/General Management company, Martian Entertainment, and Resident Production Stage Manager for Seaside Music Theatre, Community Performance Series, Crane Opera Ensemble, and Potsdam Music Theatre. Broadway, Off-Broadway, and National Tour credits include *Puppet Palooza*, *Flight: on Earth, in Sky*, *Altar Boyz*, *The Musical of Musicals*, *Naked Boys Singing!* *Christine Jorgensen Reveals*, *Jim Henson's Singalong with The Muppet Movie*, *Labyrinth Singalong*, *Les Misérables*, and the world premiere of *Million Dollar Quartet*.



**Lamar Hickley** (Sound Designer/Director of Sound) has always been involved with the Arts. Since the age of 8, he has acquired the skill to play multiple instruments and gained knowledge in the area of sound reinforcement. He has over 20 years of experience as a recording engineer, in live mixing, and music production. In 2012, he received his AS degree in Music Production Technology and in 2014, He received his BAS in business supervision and management. Lamar's passions in the industry of audio granted him the "Most Outstanding Student" award in 2012. As a result, he was selected as the face of the Music Production Technology at Daytona State College. In 2016, Lamar was introduced to the Athens family and is honored to have his company "Kevin Majestic Productions," responsible for ensuring all the audio needs are met with nothing but the best sound and quality!



**Amanda Tyler** (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be at the Athens costume designing for the first time after a long hiatus from theatre. She was previously the assistant to the designer and wardrobe supervisor at Seaside Music Theater from 1993-2003. She would like to thank everyone at the Athens "for welcoming me back into the theatre where I truly belong."



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## ~Meet The Production Team~



**Tori Oakes** (Scenic Builder/Production TD) is a Central Florida based technical director and scenic designer. She is, as always, happy to be working at the Athens Theatre again. Previous designs at the Athens include: *Rock of Ages*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Ragtime*, *Shrek TYA Version*, *Elf*, *Chicago*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Fantasticks!*, *9 to 5*, *Into the Woods*, *The Producers*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Oklahoma!*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Aladdin, Jr.*, *Sister Act*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Addams Family*, *Cabaret*, and *White Christmas*. Tori is the owner of Misfit Toys Theatrical LLC, an Orlando based production company that, in addition to building scenery for Athens Theatre productions, provides various scenic and properties services for a number of theatrical organizations from Central Florida to New England. Tori holds an MFA in theatre from the University of Central Florida.



**Diane McLean** (Production Coordinator) is very happy to be joining the Athens Theatre Family! Before moving to DeLand in 2020, she was a professional stage manager for over twenty years. She received her MFA in Stage Management from Boston University. When not at the Athens, Diane teaches at Daytona State College. Love to H and C





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## ~Meet The Production Team~



**Nicholas Hogan** (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working with the Athens as Director of Lighting/Assistant Technical Director. Nick found his passion for lighting in early high school, practicing design at the historical Barn Theater in Stuart, Florida. After high school Nick went on to find employment in various lighting positions in places such as the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, the Lyric Theatre, and the Orlando Repertory Theater. Nick is responsible for the lighting design and execution of the Athens mainstage shows as well as their limited engagement performances.



**Logan Reynolds** (Stage Manager) This is Logan's first show as lead stage manager at the Athens. They are very thankful to Frank for giving them this opportunity. They have been on stage at the Athens (*Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Producers*, *Jack - Into the Woods*) and backstage (ASM - *Young Frankenstein* and *Scrooge*), and love the family they have made. They hope you enjoy the show!



**Amy Uppercue** (Costume Shop Manager) has been working behind the scenes at the Athens Theatre since 2011, and has loved being a part of all the magic that has been created on our stage. Previous costume design credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, and *Footloose*. In addition to running the Athens Costume Shop, Amy is also a teaching artist for the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. Amy and her husband have three little ladies that are their biggest blessing and greatest joy. Enjoy the show!



**Hali Brown** (ASM Apprentice) Hali is a soon-to-be college student after 9 years in theatre. Her most recent shows at Athens include *Scrooge* and *Young Frankenstein*.

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## ~Meet The Administrative Team~



**Alexa Baldwin** (Executive Director) is a graduate of Kent State University with her BFA in Musical Theatre. After twelve years of working in the theatre industry and managing the offices of several companies, Alexa became the Director of Marketing and Operations for the Sands Theatre Center (DBA - Athens Theatre) in July of 2011. In 2021, she was made the theatre's Executive Director. Among other shows, she has appeared on the Athens Theatre's stage as Sandy in *Grease*, Fantine in *Les Misérables*, and as Roz in *9 to 5 the Musical*. She has dedicated her life to working with an incredible family of co-workers and volunteers to make the Athens Theatre a representation of what community theatres can strive to be—both onstage and off. In addition to her theatre family, she is fortuitous to have an incredible husband and daughter who are endlessly patient and supportive with all thing Athens Theatre. Mrs. Baldwin thanks everyone in the cast, crew, production team, and ALL the staff for the tireless hours they spent making tonight's magic happen. She hopes that you enjoy the show and come back to visit us again soon.



**Craig Uppercue** (Artistic Director) A Stetson University alumnus, Mr. Uppercue has taught for 18 years in the public school systems of Florida from the Elementary to Collegiate levels. Craig is the Music Director of the Off-Broadway National Tour - *The Rock & The Rabbi* and performs with the show when available. Other performing opportunities include Broadway and Off ~ Broadway credits such as *The Witnesses Musical* (Original Cast member), *The Lion King*, *Songs for a New World*, and numerous national tours throughout the U.S. He is actively involved with many professional symphonies and maintains an active performing schedule with professional artists throughout the nation. Mr. Uppercue has been with the Athens Theatre since 2011, and he has directed many musicals and plays at the Athens as well, most recently in *Shrek!* Craig and his wonderful wife, Amy, live locally, enjoying every moment as they watch their three daughters grow up!



**Shonda L. Thurman** (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advocate) Born and raised in Flint, MI, Ms. Thurman holds a BFA in Musical Theater from Roosevelt University, in Chicago, IL and Stephens College in Columbia, MO. She also holds a theatre management certification from Tiffany Vega Management. Shonda is currently the curriculum manager for the Orlando Repertory Theatre and current co-chair for the Juneteenth lunch and Learn Facts of Freedom. Her performance credits range from local to all over the country in national tours. In her roles as a DEIA, performer, director, and educator she believes that everyone deserves a voice, their stories told and heard, and themselves represented in whatever arena they choose. "I am not a teacher I am an awakener." ~Robert Frost.

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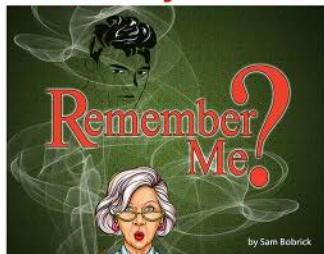
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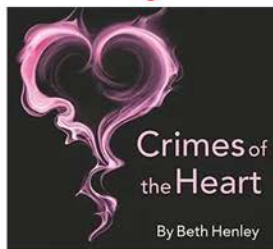
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