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The Athens Theatre Presents

JIMMY BUFFETT'S

Escape to

Margaritaville



Music and Lyrics
by
Jimmy Buffett

Book by
Greg Garcia &
Mike O'Malley

JULY 14 - AUG 6

ATHENS THEATRE 2023-2024 SEASON



I am thrilled to be at the helm of this fun, thought-provoking, thrilling, witty, and heartfelt season on the horizon. First, we embark on a journey to a sunny Caribbean Island filled with the familiar and toe-tapping tunes of Jimmy Buffett, volcanoes, and easing up on that fast-paced life to discover love. "It's those changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes."

Next, jump into the fall season with a well-known Stephen King classic brought to life on stage with a production that will analyze our psyche and will be sure to make you squirm in your seats while examining the fine line between obsession and love.

Now, let's shift gears and join a group of entertainers in World War II keen on spreading the holiday spirit to save a Vermont Inn, *White Christmas*. Our holiday offering helps set the tone for our yearly festive décor provided by our fantastic Facility Manager, Alan Ware, the Athens Staff, and a group of dedicated volunteers. It's a holiday tradition that no Volusia County resident should miss, and every tourist deserves to experience.

Cascading into the New Year is *Frozen Jr.*, A heartfelt story that will help us all understand that being different is not something to be feared but embraced as strength and love.

Next, the theatre travels to ancient Rome for a hilarious farce infused with the music and lyrics of the great Stephen Sondheim. Slamming doors, love, and mistaken identity wrapped up in satire fuel this classic show. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* will keep you laughing in your seats.

And finally, we will take you to the East Village of NYC in a Pulitzer Prize-winning musical for a story about living as well as you can for as long as you can, *Carpe Diem* (seize the day). We are all afraid of losing the person we once were in order to be true to ourselves. *RENT* will show us all that there's only us; there's only you—a true celebration to conclude our theatrical year.

I look forward to seeing and getting to know you at the theatre and enjoy our upcoming Season of Love.

Frank Ramirez
Producing Artistic Director



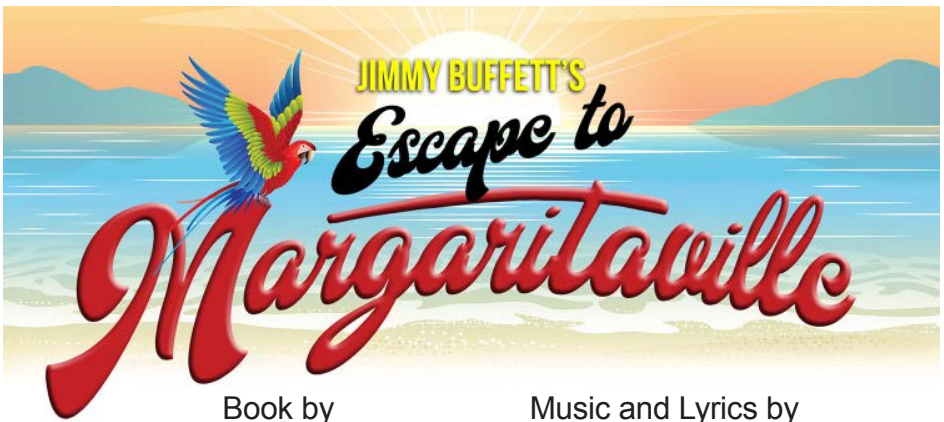
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Book by
**Greg Garcia &
Mike O'Malley**

Music and Lyrics by
Jimmy Buffett

**Original Broadway Production produced by
Frank Marshall, Rich Entertainment Group, Anita Waxman and Grove Entertainment**

The world premiere of *Escape to Margaritaville* was produced by La Jolla Playhouse, in La Jolla, California Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director and Michael Rosenberg, Managing Director

Director
**Becca
Southworth**

Choreographer
**Allison
Maxwell**

Music Director
**Chris
Endsley**

Scenic Designer
**Michael
Brewer**

Sound Designer
**Lamar
Hickley**

Lighting Designer
**Nick
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Scenic Builder/TD
**Tori
Oakes**

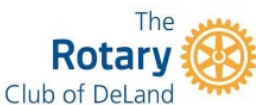
Costume Designer
**Tamara
Marke-Lares**

Production Supervisor
**Diane
McLean**

July 14 - August 6, 2023 | The Athens Theatre

Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville is presented by special arrangement with
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Director's Notes...

Calling all Parrotheads! It's vacation time at the Athens, and I have just the destination! I've always viewed going to the theatre as a "vacation." It has the power to transport people for a couple of hours from the stress of the real world. I am fortunate in that *Margaritaville* has made that easy. This show features 27 Jimmy Buffett tunes that will inspire you to tap your feet, sing along, and head to the beach...or the bar.

Jimmy Buffett first created Margaritaville as an oasis for people to get away and have some fun. Although his Margaritaville holds its origins in Key West, it is a mythical world that can be found almost anywhere. "It's pure escapism is all it is," Buffett says.

So, if you are truly ready, I invite you to leave all your cares behind, as you sit back, RELAX, and "escape" to our *Margaritaville*.

Becca Southworth
Jimmy Buffett's
Escape to Margaritaville
Director



NOTE TO AUDIENCE: - The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording of this production is a violation of United States Copyright Law and an actionable federal offense.

ATHENS THEATRE'S

CONTEST

Cheeseburger in Paradise



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- Meet The Cast -



Jy'ireze Bell-Bennett (Jamal, Investor, Ensemble) is ecstatic to be at Athens Theatre in this exciting production of *Escape To Margaritaville*. Jy'ireze is a 21-year-old college student studying at Palm Beach Atlantic University. and is a prominent performer in the Central and South Florida areas. Previous performance credits include *La Cage Aux Folles* (The Barn Theatre), *Grease* (The Barn Theatre), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Maplewood Playhouse), *The Wizard of Oz* (Lakeworth Playhouse), *9 to 5* (Lakeworth Playhouse), *Les Misérables: High School Edition* (Cocoa Village Playhouse), *Mamma Mia!* (Cocoa Village Playhouse), *Newsies* (Cocoa Village Playhouse) and many more. Jy'ireze would like to thank the Athens Theatre for welcoming him, and many thanks to his family, friends, and God for their love and support. Enjoy the show!



Skylar Dowman (Tina, Female Tourist, Ensemble) recently moved home to Florida after graduating from Reinhardt University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. Skylar's theatre credits include Shellhammer in *Miracle on 34th Street* (Beach Street Rep), April in *Company* (Reinhardt University), and Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes* (Reinhardt University). She is thrilled to be making her Athens Theatre debut and thanks her friends and family for their love and encouragement!

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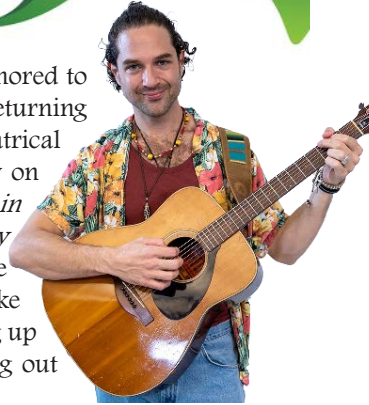
215 S Woodland Blvd. DeLand, FL 32720



- Meet The Cast -



Christopher Fahmie (Tully Mars) is honored to perform at the Athens Theatre. Since returning to Florida, he has been building theatrical sets, but has had the opportunity to play on stage as Richard the Lionheart in *Lion in Winter*, Niko in *The Office Holiday Party Musical Extravaganza Show*, and some sort of naughty vampire prince in *Nosferatu*. He would like to show his appreciation to his wife and family for putting up with his nonsense and to Becca Southworth for reaching out and issuing a “License to Chill”.



Donald Fields (Boston Weatherman, Mr. Utley, M.C Sloppy Joe, Minister, Ensemble) is thrilled to return for his 20th show here at the Athens Theatre! Last seen as The Girl’s Father (Bellomy) in the mid-pandemic production of *The Fantasticks* in October 2020, Donald has since taken on his proudest role to date - Assistant Principal for Performing Arts and Exceptional Student Education at Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs. And, to be honest, he could absolutely go for a margarita right about now! In addition to his work on and backstage at the Athens, Donald serves as a member of the Board of Directors. Donald would like to thank this whole production team for getting him back on stage, as well as his friends and family for their love, their support, and for always letting him be himself.



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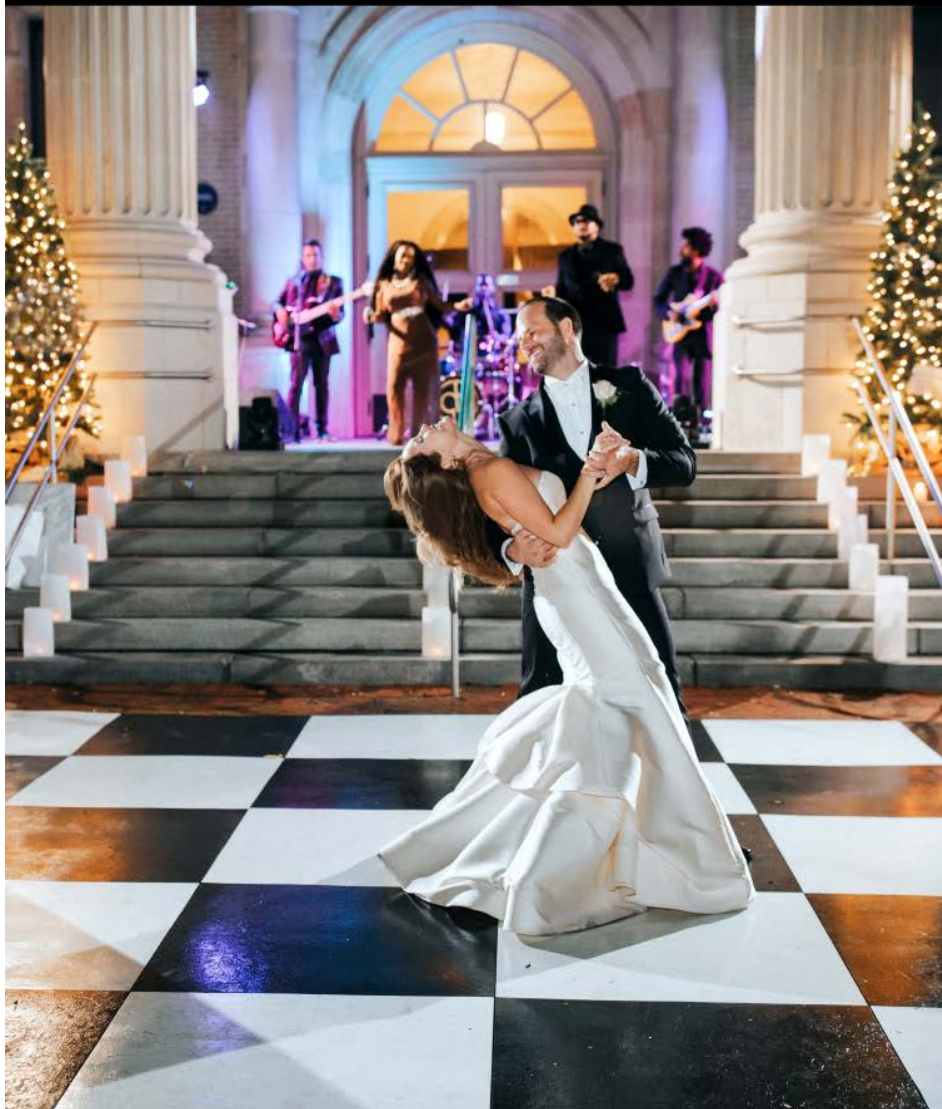
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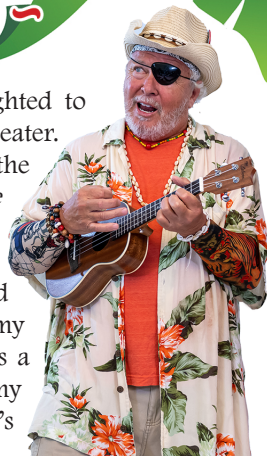
-JOE HEARN

- Meet The Cast -



Michael Funaro (JD) is proud and delighted to be back among his friends at the Athens Theater. Michael has been most recently seen on the Athens stage as Scrooge in *Scrooge the Musical* along with several other Athens productions such as *King Arthur* in *Spamalot*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Les Misérables* and

Inherit the Wind. "I have been a Parrothead for most of my adult life and being able to live out this lifestyle onstage is a dream come true." Thank you to Becca, Chris, Frank, and my beloved family for allowing me to pursue this opportunity. It's 5 O'clock Somewhere!!!!



Logan Freeman (Goon #2, Chicago Weatherman, Touristman, Ensemble) is excited to return to the Athens Theatre this summer. Logan was last seen in the Ensemble of *Young Frankenstein* and played Horton in *Seussical, Jr.* Logan will be attending the University of West Florida this fall and will study Musical Theatre.

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- Meet The Cast -



Jot Gault (Chadd/Ensemble) is excited to return to the Athens stage for the 2023-2024 season. Performing in shows such as *Young Frankenstein*, *A Chorus Line*, *Ragtime*, *Holiday Inn*, and *Rock of Ages* Jot is ecstatic to be joining an amazing cast to enjoy the sounds, moves and moments in a paradise known as Margaritaville.



Everlee Grooms (TSA Agent, Presenter, Ensemble) is excited to be back at The Athens for the tropical, *Escape to Margaritaville*, a contrast to the chilling, winter show, *Scrooge the Musical* (Martha Cratchit/Ensemble). As a member of the Athens Theatre Youth Academy, she's just added *Footloose*, along with *Singing in the Rain, Jr.* (Ensemble), and *Matilda, Jr.* (Matilda) to her list of summer productions. Recent local shows include Ensemble in: *Shrek the Musical* (Athens), *Hello, Dolly!* (The Little Theatre), *Seussical the Musical & High School Musical* (Inspired Theater Co.), and student showcases at Shoestring & Breakthrough Theatres. She is a member of Stetson Young Singers, Singers Select, and Volusia Co. 4-H. She earned blue ribbon at 4H county & district levels this year; and, with her sister, placed 3rd in the Volusia County Fair talent show. Being a DeLand native, community is important to her and she's often found working backstage, tech, or volunteering for local organizations. She will always consider The Athens Theatre her 2nd home, and thanks the creative team for allowing her this opportunity.



Mark Leavitt (Goon #1, Ensemble) is so excited to return to the Athens stage! Mark was last involved with the Athens as the Male Swing in last summer's *Rock of Ages*. He is currently going to school for musical theatre at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. Previous credits include John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Dennis in *All Shook Up*, and an Ancestor in *The Addams Family*. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of the constant love and support!

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- Meet The Cast -



Scott Leavitt (Lawyer Dude, Ensemble) is excited to be back on the Athen's stage after appearing in *Rock of Ages* last summer! Since then, he graduated with his BFA in Drama with a concentration in Acting from Lynn University. Past credits include Billy Flynn (*Chicago*), Julian Marsh (*42nd Street*), Demetrius (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Jim O'Connor (*The Glass Menagerie*). He'd like to thank the cast and crew for their tremendous hard work and talent, and his family and friends for their constant support. Enjoy the show!



Brittany Nicole Lewis (Marley) is a Daytona Beach, Florida resident and is currently employed as a US History teacher in Volusia County. Since the age of six, she has been singing and dancing; she debuted in chorus in the 6th grade and began performing in musical theatre in the 9th grade. She has been seen performing at several Central Florida events, venues, and various musicals such as *Dream Girls*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Music Man*, *Sister Act*, and *Shrek*; her favorite role was Brenda in *Smokey Joe's Café*. Brittany's church's worship team has been her home for the past five years. As a singer Brittany is eager to use her talents for the good of the community. She hopes to continue using her passion for music and voice to inspire others, bring joy and entertain for many years and looks forward to new opportunities.

Coming to the Athens Theatre

A promotional image for a Rod Stewart tribute show. It features three performers: a woman on the left singing into a microphone, a man in the center wearing a red and white plaid scarf, and a man on the right singing into a microphone. The background is black. Overlaid on the image is the text "BEST OF ROD" in large white letters, with a red lipstick smudge over the letter 'O'. Below that, "Rod Stewart" is written in red cursive, and "TRIBUTE" is in red block letters. At the bottom, "August 12th • 7:30pm" is written in red and white.

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The 59th Anniversary
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August 18th
7:30 pm Showtime



- Meet The Cast -



Abigail Morgan (Rachel) is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Escape to Margaritaville*, her second show at the Athens Theatre! You may recognize her from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Choir/Statue/Reveler) at the Athens, where she could be seen juggling and performing acrobatics in addition to her role in the Ensemble. Other previous credits include *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Legally Blonde* (Brooke U/S), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Ensemble) at Fort Walton Beach High School. In addition to performing in live theatre, Abigail spent several years in the Panhandle as a character performer for Enchanted Parties LLC and is currently pursuing character-performing opportunities in Orlando. Abigail enjoys sewing and crocheting in her free time and would love the opportunity to work in costuming one day in addition to performing. She'd like to thank her family and partner for supporting her and always encouraging her to pursue her dreams!



Ashley Peters (National Weatherwoman, Female Investor, Ensemble) is a local choral director, music director, and vocalist. She performs around the area with various groups, including the Bach Festival Chorus and the Disney Cast Choir and is thrilled to be back on the Athens Theatre stage! Some of her recent roles include Lin (*The Great American Trailer Park Musical*), Vibrata (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*), Poppy (*Noises Off*), Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours (*Sister Act*), Ethel McCormack (*Footloose*) and was most recently seen here in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Ashley is excited to spend a little time in Margaritaville this summer with this incredible cast!

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Coming to the Athens Theatre

**Saturday,
August 19**

7:30 pm

The

DIRT'S

a tribute

- Meet The Cast -



Gabriel Quijano (Brick) is thrilled to be making his Athens Theater debut! Gabriel is a 2021 graduate of Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, focusing on vocal performance and conducting. He was most recently seen as Henry the Historian in *The City Beautiful, an Original Live Band Burlesque Musical* at the Orlando Fringe Festival, winning the Green Venue Patron's Pick in 2023 and Watermark Magazine's WAVE Award for Favorite Local Theatrical Show in 2022. Gabriel gives infinite thanks to his friends and family for their endless love and support, and special thanks to the cast and crew of *Escape to Margaritaville* for this unforgettable tropical experience!



Katherine Reiss (Tammy) is thrilled to be making her Athens debut! She is a recent Rollins College 2023 grad, where she earned her BA in Theatre Performing Arts. Her most recent theater credits are The Dukes in *Shakespeare's As You Like It* (Annie Russell Theater), Marie Curie in *The Half Life of Marie Curie* (Rollins Players), Della in *The Cake* (Rollins Players), and Madame Thenardier in *Les Misérables* (SCPS Performing Arts). Katherine would like to thank her friends and family for all of their continuous love and support.



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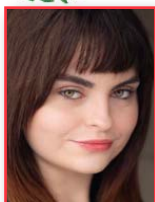


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- Meet The Cast -



Natalie Werba (Alix Jaffe, Ginger, Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her first production at the Athens Theatre. Natalie is a rising junior in the BFA Musical Theatre Program at the University of Central Florida and has performed in a variety of musicals and plays including her previous theatre credits *Working (Woman 2 and U/S Rose Hoffman)*, *Welcome To The Moon (Betsy)*, *Pippin (Fastrada)*, and *Bright Star (Lucy Grant)*. She has also been showcased at the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center:

Applause Awards as a medley lead, outstanding performer, and alumni performer.



Christie Young (Fargo Weatherwoman, Wanda, Podcaster, Ensemble) is happy to return to her Athens Theatre family! For the Athens, she's played Poppy in *Noises Off*; Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, Regina in *Rock of Ages*, Woman 1 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and a gargyle in *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She's performed in theatres from Alaska to New Hampshire. Other local performances include Lady Eugenia in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Osceola Arts), Ensemble in *Kiss Me Kate* (Orlando Shakespeare Theatre), and Helga in *Holidays Around the World* (Epcot). She is a full-time actor and puppeteer for Universal Orlando Resort and holds an MFA in Musical Theatre Performance from the University of Central Florida. "Many thanks to my family and friends for their continued support!"

Instagram: @foreverchristieyoung. Facebook: @christieyoungsings.

A promotional poster for a John Denver tribute. At the top, the text "CARL BENNETT'S" is written in a yellow, distressed font, arched over a circular graphic. The graphic features a man with grey hair, wearing a patterned blue and white shirt and a white vest, playing an acoustic guitar. The background of the circle is a sunset with horizontal stripes in shades of green, yellow, and orange, and silhouettes of evergreen trees at the bottom. Below the circle, the text "JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE" is written in a large, bold, yellow, distressed font. At the very bottom, "AUGUST 25 • 5&8 SHOWTIMES" is written in the same yellow, distressed font.

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JIMMY BUFFETT'S

Escape to

Margaritaville



~ CAST ~

Christopher Fahmie.....TULLY
Abigail Morgan.....RACHEL
Katherine Reiss TAMMY
Gabriel Quijano BRICK
Brittany Nicole Lewis MARLEY
Michael Funaro.....J.D.
Ashley PetersNATIONAL WEATHERWOMAN,
FEMALE INVESTOR
Christie Young FARGO WEATHERWOMAN,
WANDA, PODCASTER, AUTUMN
Donald FieldsBOSTON WEATHERMAN, MR. UTLEY,
MINISTER, M.C SLOPPY JOE, MIKE
Everlee Grooms..... TSA AGENT, PRESENTER, KEELY
Jy'ireze Bell-Bennett..... JAMAL, INVESTOR, ANDRE
Logan Freeman.....GOON #2,
CHICAGO WEATHERMAN, TOURISTMAN
Mark Leavitt.....GOON #1, MATT
Natalie Werba.....ALIX JAFFE,
GINGER, ANGELA
Scott Leavitt.....LAWYER DUDE, JUSTIN
Skylar Dowman.....TINA, FEMALE TOURIST
Jot Gault.....CHAD, ENSEMBLE



~ ACT 1 ~

License to Chill
License to Reggae
Fins
Five O' Clock Somewhere
It's My Job
Why Don't We Get Drunk
and Screw
Three Chords
We Are The People Our Parents
Warned Us About
Son of a Son of a Sailor
Tuesday On The Island
Wednesday On The Island
Thursday On The Island
Friday On The Island/Come Monday
Changes in Latitudes,
Changes in Attitudes
Margaritaville

~ ACT 2 ~

Volcano
Grapefruit, Juicy Fruit
He Went To Paris
Cheeseburger in Paradise
Tin Cup Chalice
It's My Job Reprise
Love and Luck/
Breathe In, Breathe Out
King of Somewhere Hot
Coast of Marseilles
A Pirate Looks At 40
One Particular Harbor
Bows
Post Bows

~ PRODUCTION TEAM & TECH CREW ~

Director Becca Southworth
Choreographer Allison Maxwell
Music Director..... Chris Endsley
Producing
Artistic Director..... Frank Ramirez
Scenic Designer..... Michael Brewer
Prop Designer/
Scenic Builder/TD..... Tori Oakes
Costume Designer.... Tamara Marke-Lares
Lighting Designer/ATD.... Nicholas Hogan
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Scenic Build Crew..... Jonathan Jackson,
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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Becca Southworth (Director) is excited to be back at the Athens, serving as director. It's been too long! She had the pleasure of directing *Some Enchanted Evening* and serving as Choreographer for *Lion King, Jr.* and *Seussical, Jr.* Previous Athens performance roles include Mother in *Ragtime*, Patsy in *Always Patsy Cline* and Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot*. Other Central Florida credits include Diana in *Next to Normal*, Becca in *From Here*, Laverne in *Once I Laughed*, and Betty Haynes in *White Christmas*. Becca holds a BA from Rollins College, an MFA from UCF, and an MED in Leadership from Stetson University. She is currently an Assistant Principal at Lake Mary High School. She would like to thank her incredibly loving and talented husband Trevor who has given her years of research on how to relax when you're stressed, have fun, and appreciate life! She hopes you will do the same.



Allison Maxwell (Choreographer) As a lifelong Parrothead, Allison is so excited to serve as choreographer for *Escape to Margaritaville!* She directed *Matilda, Jr.* last season and has choreographed several Athens shows including *Shrek TYA*, *Mamma Mia!*, and the smash hit, *Scrooge, the Musical* (the most attended show in the theatre's history!). 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-Bonnetoux 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, and currently teaches everything from Ballet to HipHop at Children's Musical Theater Workshop in Ormond Beach. Allison is also 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 (who gets her name from a Jimmy Buffett song!) for keeping her feet on the ground and her head in the clouds, and sends love to her entire Athens family for enabling her to do what she loves while surrounded by such incredible people! "That's why we wander and follow La Vie Dansante." Fins up!



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Chris Endsley (Music Director) is a 30+-year professional Music Director, currently serving as Vocal Director for Virgin Voyages cruise line. Chris has been Music Director/Accompanist for Garden Theatre, UCF Conservatory Theatre, Rollins College, Athens Theatre, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Daytona State College, Theatre Winter Haven, Granbury Opera House (Texas), and Seaside Music Theatre. Chris has music directed some of The Athens' biggest musicals, including *Hairspray*, *Spamalot*, *Cabaret*, *Legally Blonde* and *Sister Act*.

Chris was on faculty seventeen years at Seabreeze High School, Daytona Beach, where he served as Chair of the Fine Arts Department, Choral Director and coordinator of the prestigious American Musical Theatre program. In 2004 he received the school's coveted Teacher of the Year Award. In 2022 Chris retired from University High School, Orange City, ending a twenty-five year career as a music educator with Volusia County Schools. Chris toured the country as a concert organist, conducted workshops in church music development, and has over 40 years experience in church music. He is currently Organist/Director of Traditional worship at North Lake Presbyterian Church, Lady Lake. Chris holds a Bachelor of Music in Church Music/Organ from Baylor University, a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Florida State University and two additional years of graduate study in performance from Texas Christian University. Chris is a proud member of AFM Local 389. Much love to A.M.E.N.!

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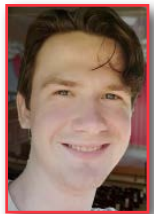
~ Meet The Production Team ~



Michael Brewer (Scenic Designer) is a 1987 graduate of Wright State University in theatre design and technology. He started working as a scenic artist in regional theatres such as, The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, La Jolla Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, and the Cleveland Playhouse. He is currently based in Ohio and has been designing for local theatres there. He has designed *Guys and Dolls*, *A Christmas Story*, *Clue*, *Elf*, *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change* and *Ragtime*.



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!



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.



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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Tori Oakes (Scenic Builder/Prop Designer/Production TD) is a Central Florida based technical director and scenic designer. She is, as always, happy to be working at the Athens Theatre. 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.



Bonnie Sprung (Scenic Charge Artist) is very happy to be back with Athens Theater after scenic painting for *Scrooge*, *Ragtime* and most recently *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Bonnie has a BA from Hofstra University in Set Design and Graphics, along with her AA from Valencia Community College in Fine Art. She has done set design, scenic painting, make-up and stage management for over 200 shows in Orlando and New York. She worked as Set/Scenic designer for the BCC Summer Fine Arts program and the JCC Center Players and Stage Manager, Sound and Graphics for Summer Winds Theatre. She has also designed for GenY Productions, First Academy Middle and High School, Westridge Middle School, Boone High, Lake Brantley High, Central Florida Community Arts, JCC Youth Academy, FL Theatrical Productions, The Ensemble Company and Gotha Middle School. Some of her nominated designs include *Cabaret*, *The Flick*, *Bat Boy the Musical*, *Jane Eyre the Musical*, *Torch Song*, *Clybourne Park*, *Perfect Arrangement* and *Hysteria*. Bonnie has over 30 years experience in curating, judging various art exhibits and thespian competitions and is a member of the Women's Caucus for Art and is a past president of the FL chapter. Currently she is on the Seminole Cultural Arts Council Board. Bonnie, has shown her fine artwork and has received several awards. [www.BonnieSprung.com](http://www.bonniesprung.com/) (<http://www.bonniesprung.com/>)

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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Tamara Marke-Lares (Resident Costume Designer) is a sculptor, painter, printmaker, and creature marionette maker. She has been designing costumes freelance for 19 years. She has designed for Dance, Ballet, Opera and Cirque productions, as well as numerous collaborative and solo productions. Some favorite costume credits include *Rock of Ages*; *Ragtime*, *Shrek*, *Elf*; *Clue*; *Ain't Misbehavin'*; *Jerry's Girls*; *Chicago*; *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*; *James and the Giant Peach*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Into the Woods*; *The Wedding Singer*; *Jekyll & Hyde*; *The Lion King, Jr.* and *The Producers*. This is her sixth season with the Athens Theatre. Tamara spends her days teaching at Ivy Hawn Charter School, creating art and costumes and being amazed by her two crazy-talented children.



Diane McLean (Production Supervisor) is a professional stage manager with over 30 years' experience in regional, touring, and Off Broadway theater, as well as film and higher education. She received her MFA in Stage Management from Boston University. She has stage managed for The Kennedy Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Huntington Theatre Company, Lyric Stage Company, Boston University College of Fine Arts, and Boston University Tanglewood Institute, to name a few. Film credits include *War of the Worlds*, directed by Steven Spielberg and Stephanie Daley starring Tilda Swinton. In addition to her work at the Athens Theater, she is a professor and mentor to students at the Mike Curb College of Music, Entertainment, & Art at Daytona State. She is also the former Professor of Theatre at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. She'd like to thank Frank and the staff and board of the Athens Theater for the opportunity to engage in theatre once again in her new hometown of DeLand. Love to H, C, and G.

A promotional poster for a tribute show. The background is dark with large, glowing diamond outlines. In the center, a man in a black jacket and white scarf is singing into a microphone, with his right arm raised. The text at the top reads "THE ATHENS THEATRE PRESENTS" in white, followed by "DIAMOND" in large, sparkling letters, and "A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE" in smaller white letters below it. At the bottom left is a white accessibility icon (a person in a wheelchair) and the website "AthensDeLand.com". At the bottom right is the date and time "September 3rd • 4&7:30pm".

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~ Meet The Production Team ~



Annalee Weydert (Asst. Stage Manager) is going into her 3rd year at UCF this fall in the BFA Stage Management program. Her Theatre UCF credits include Project Spotlight's *Race to Infinity* (Stage Manager), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Asst. Stage Manager) and *Shrek the Musical* (Production Assistant). Here at the Athens, her credits include *Rock of Ages* (Stage Manager), *Mamma Mia!* (Asst. Stage Manager) and *Jerry's Girls* (Asst. Stage Manager). She is also often

backstage or in the booth during events. She thanks her friends and family for the endless support and hopes 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. Favorite 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, and serves on the board of the National League of Junior Cotillion West Volusia Chapter and the Deland Choir Parents Association. So much love to C, HK, AB and B. Enjoy the show!

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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 fortunate 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.



Frank Ramirez (Artistic Director) is a dedicated entertainment professional with over twenty plus years of experience. His journey in the arts has taken him behind the scenes, on stage, in union management, production management, stage management, general arts management, production director and creative guidance on multiple levels in the arts industry. He joined the Athens Theatre in 2018, has directed numerous mainstage productions on the Athens stage, and is thrilled to be the Producing Artistic Director for this beautiful jewel of a theatre in the heart of Downtown DeLand.

In the past, Frank has been part of multiple productions and organizations on Broadway, Off-Broadway, professional regional theatres, event management, and theme park entertainment management. He has also been associated with The Jim Henson Company via Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry, where he served as Company Manager and facilitator of their worldwide full-scale theatrical productions in Canada, China, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and nationally across the USA. Frank also worked as a guest artist instructor of Stage Management at SUNY Potsdam/Crane School of Music.

Mr. Ramirez works with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to help steer the creative vision for the Athens Theatre. This includes working with a committee to develop play selections, production schedules, and budgets. He is responsible for hiring and overseeing all staff necessary to prepare for and present each Athens Theatre Company production. In addition, he oversees the production management aspect for all live events on the Athens stage.

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Craig Uppercue (Community Outreach and Development Supervisor)

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 *Shrek TYA!* Craig and his wonderful wife, Amy, live locally, enjoying every moment as they watch their three daughters grow up!



Santi Gabino Jr., (Marketing and Communications Manager), a native of South Florida, made the exciting decision to relocate to DeLand in the Summer of 2022. With a rich background in event management, Santi served as the Executive & Marketing Director of a highly successful venue in Homestead, FL for over 11 years. During his tenure on his family's estate, he orchestrated nearly 100 weddings, attracting attention from renowned publications like *Allure Bridal* and *Modern*

Bride for magazine shoots. The venue also became a prime location for television filming and hosting esteemed networks such as Nickelodeon and Telemundo.

He also spearheaded the creation of a wildly popular Farm to Table dinner series. Having cultivated a substantial social media following in his previous role and drawing upon his expertise, he now oversees the creation of all marketing materials, social media strategies, business to business promotions, and the crafting of all press releases and public communications.



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 Family Stage 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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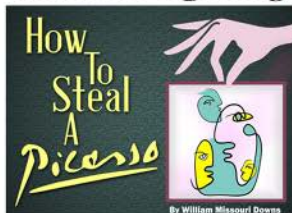
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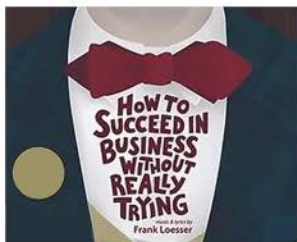


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