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The Athens Theatre Presents

MISERY

By William Goldman

Based on the
Novel by
Stephen King



Sept 22 - Oct 15

ATHENS THEATRE 2023-2024 SEASON



I am thrilled to be at the helm of this fun, thought-provoking, thrilling, witty, and heartfelt season.

After having just embarked on our journey to Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville*, we now jump into the fall season with today's performance of *Misery*. A Stephen King classic brought to life on stage with a production that will analyze our psyche and will be sure to make you squirm and examine what love is — everything the Halloween season should do.

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 it.

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.

Love... now let's travel to ancient Rome for a hilarious farce infused with the music and lyrics of Stephen Sondheim, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Slamming doors, love, and mistaken identity wrapped up in satire fuel this classic show that I know will keep you laughing in your seats.

And finally, we will take you on a trip to the East Village of NYC for a story about living as well as you can for as long as you can, Carpe Diem, seize the day. Everyone is afraid of losing the person they once were in order to be true to themselves. *RENT* will show us all that there's only us; there's only you — a true celebration to conclude our Season of Love.

I look forward to seeing and getting to know you at the theatre this season, and I hope you enjoy our season of love.



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MISERY

by

William Goldman

Based on the novel by Stephen King

Original Broadway production produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures in association with Castle Rock Entertainment, Liz Glotzer, Mark Kaufman, Martin Shafer, Raymond Wu

World Premiere produced at Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, PA
(Jed Bernstein, Producing Director)

Director

Trevor Southworth

Assistant Director

Amanda Ortega

Scenic/Prop Designer/Scenic Builder/TD

Tori Oakes

Sound Designer

Lamar Hickley

Lighting Designer

Nicholas Hogan

Costume Designer

Tamara Marke-Lares

Stage Manager

Avery Tyler

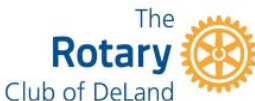
Production Supervisor

Diane McLean

September 22 - October 15, 2023 | The Athens Theatre

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Director's Notes...

I have been a fan of Stephen King for over 30 years. I have read everything he has written multiple times. While his books are scary, gruesome, and disturbing they are also, invariably, about the triumph of the human spirit over seemingly insurmountable odds. I am also captivated by where he chooses to place power.

In *Misery*, he gives it to a man who is horribly injured and needs to find untapped sources of power within himself. *Misery* is also Stephen King's most personal story. In Annie Wilkes, he conjures up a visceral terror that anyone in the spotlight recognizes..."the number 1 fan." We have all been there! We are all fans of someone. We all have the ability to become Annie Wilkes in us, which is what makes *Misery* so compelling. On the surface, we are horrified by her actions, but I think the true horror is how much we all see of ourselves in her. We root for Paul Sheldon to triumph over Annie because his victory is a triumph over the dark side in all of us. Here's hoping he is successful, I would hate to think what might happen if Annie wins...

Trevor Southworth
Misery Director

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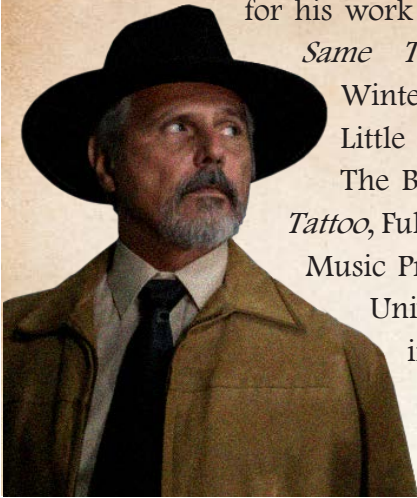


~ MEET THE CAST ~

Fernando Borrego (Buster) is excited to join the Athens family for the first time. He is known

for his work in *The Man in The Same Thing*, Little Luna, Winter Park, Eric in *Rex*, Little Luna, Winter Park, The Business Man in *The Tattoo*, Full Sail University, The

Music Professor in *Teach me to Fly*, Full Sail University, Vince in the award winning indie film *Love Distance*, and several television commercials throughout the U.S and Canada.



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~ MEET THE CAST ~

Christopher deJongh (Paul Sheldon) is thrilled to be back on the Athens Theatre Stage! Before transplanting from Massachusetts, Christopher performed in regional and community theaters throughout New England. He was last seen at The Athens as Phoebus in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Some favorite past roles include Charlie in *Kinky Boots*, Jean Valjean in *Les*



Miserables, Peter in *Bare: A Pop Opera* and Jerry in *The Full Monty*. Chris would like to thank Trevor, Amanda, Avery, Frank and the entire creative team and crew for all of their hard work in bringing this piece to life! Special thanks to Erica for being his number one fan and his pup Luna for being a floof!



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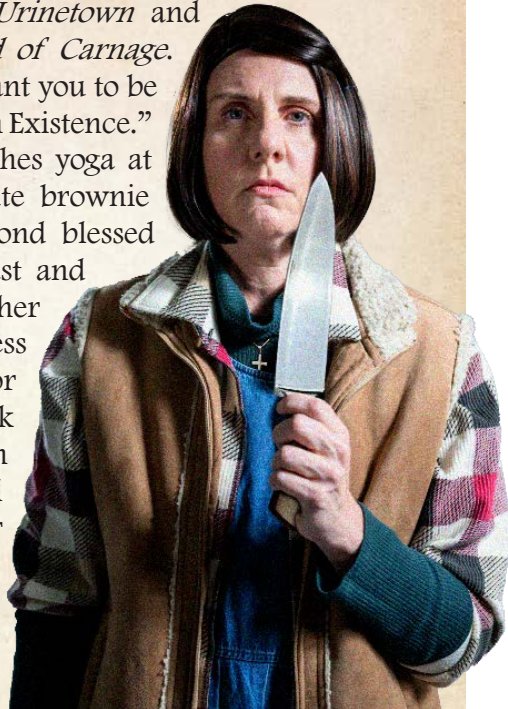
321-214-2500

~ MEET THE CAST ~



Sara Humbert (Annie Wilkes) is thrilled to return to the Athens Theatre since playing Mrs. White in *Clue*. Favorite theatre roles include: Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Dottie/Ms. Clackett in *Noises Off!*, Madame Thernardier in *Les Miserables*, Florence Olive in *The Odd Couple - Female version*, Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing*, Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown* and Annette in *God of Carnage*.

Film/TV credits include “I just want you to be Happy” and her sitcom pilot “High Existence.” She is an avid snacker who teaches yoga at a brewery and bakes a 5 minute brownie mix in 3 minutes. Sara is beyond blessed to be a part of this amazing cast and crew. She would like to share her appreciation to the show’s fearless director, Trevor Southworth, for this opportunity, and to Frank Ramirez for his leadership in such a creative and professional theatre. She will always be your number one fan. Love to her family, fur babies and friends for their continued support.



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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.



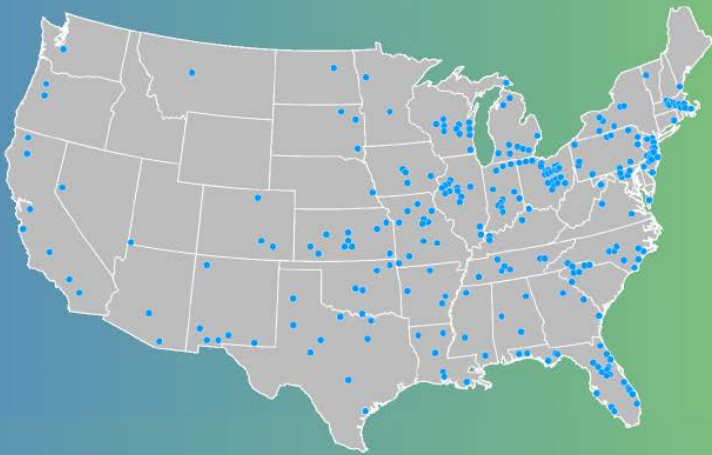
Frank Ramirez (Producing Artistic Director) Frank Ramirez is a dedicated entertainment professional with over twenty plus years of experience. His journey in the arts has taken him behind the scenes, on stage, in union management, production management, stage management, general arts management, production 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.

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MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Craig Uppercue (Development & Community Partnership)
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.



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MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Roberta (Bobe) Kenemer (Resident Graphic Artist) is a graduate of Ringling College of Art & Design (formerly Ringling School of Art), majoring in Graphic Arts & Illustration. After relocating to Volusia County in 1982, Bobe worked for a small publishing company and as a Cartographer before accepting a position at Tennant Printing Company in DeLand. She gained extensive experience in the Graphics Department of various printing companies, along with numerous freelance projects, before assuming her role with the Athens Theatre in the fall of 2019. As the sole image designer for the theatre and the Athens Theatre Youth Academy, her graphic design skills play an integral role in the theatre's visual identity. She takes immense pride in being part of the Athens Theatre family and eagerly anticipates the opportunity to contribute to the creative journey of each upcoming production and event.



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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MISERY

~ CAST ~

Christopher deJong
PAUL SHELDON

Sara Humbert
ANNIE WILKES

Fernando Borrego
BUSTER

TIME:
Winter, 1987

PLACE:
Just Outside Silver Creek,
Colorado

MISERY will be performed with
one 15-minute intermission.

Special Audio Described Performance
on Sunday, October 1st.

Special ASL/English
Interpreted Performance
on Friday, October 6th.



~ PRODUCTION TEAM ~ & TECH CREW

Director	Trevor Southworth
Assistant Director	Amanda Ortega
Producing Artistic Director	Frank Ramirez
Scenic Designer/Prop Designer/Scenic Builder/TD	Tori Oakes
Costume Designer.....	Tamara Marke-Lares
Lighting Designer/ATD.....	Nicholas Hogan
Sound Designer.....	Lamar Hickley
Scenic Build Crew	Jonathan Jackson, Ethan Roth, Henry Roth, Diego Caso
Stage Manager.....	Avery Tyler
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Trinity Baker
Fight Director.....	Bill Warriner
Production Supervisor	Diane McLean
Costume & Prop Shop Manager	Amy Uppercue
Run Crew	Cadence Mimms, Reese Lieberman
Lightboard Operator	Madison Thompson
ASL Interpreters.....	Melanie Velez, Nicole Caballer



Over a decade before Stephen King was nearly killed when a car struck him, he wrote "Misery," a 400-page psychological thriller that starts with a well-known author named Paul Sheldon nearly dying in a car accident in the middle of a snowstorm. Luckily(?) Paul is rescued from dying alone in the cold by a lonely middle-aged woman named Annie Wilkes, who just so happens to be his number one fan—and who quickly turns into his captor.

Part of the inspiration for this book isn't too surprising: by the late 1980s, King had met his fair share of toxic fans. In a 1987 interview, King talked about several of his more unpleasant experiences with them. Not only does he believe he had a run-in with the man who shot John Lennon, but the entitlement of certain fans often led to a sudden shift from praise to vitriol:

"There was a guy begging for an autograph, but we were running super-late. 'I'm your biggest fan!' he said. 'I've read all your books!' I jumped in a car and he started saying, '— you, you stupid son of a bitch.' The line is so thin between 'I love you' and 'I hate you.' They love you, but part of them wants to see you fall as far as you can."

In the beginning of "Misery," Paul is frustrated by the fact that his book series based around Misery Chastain — considered by critics to be trashy romance novels — are way more popular than his previous attempts to write serious, literary work.

King himself is less concerned about being seen as a serious writer; when an interviewer pointed out that he was often dismissed by the literary establishment early in his career, he responded, "I have outlived most of my most virulent critics. It gives me great pleasure." However, he did often feel typecast as a horror writer. Although he's responsible for many wonderful novels and short stories that aren't scary at all (we wouldn't have "The Shawshank Redemption" or "Stand By Me" without him), when readers see his name above the title, they tend to assume they're getting a horror story.

Although the inner conflict Paul's dealing with doesn't match perfectly, it's easy to see how the expectations for King to stick to horror are mirrored by the expectations for Paul to stick to romance. It's just that the backlash Paul receives for trying to break out of readers' expectations is a little more intense than some bad reviews.



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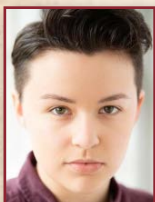
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~MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM~



Trevor Southworth (Director) is always so happy to come home to the beautiful Athens Theatre. *Misery* marks Trevor's 10th season and 18th (I think) show! Past directing credits include last years record breaking holiday show, *Scrooge*, *Elf*, *Spamalot* and *The Producers*, just to name a few. Trevor is incredibly thrilled to have the chance to bring *Misery* to the stage as it combines two of his favorite things, Theatre and Stephen King!!! This show is for my beautiful wife (I am her number 1 fan).

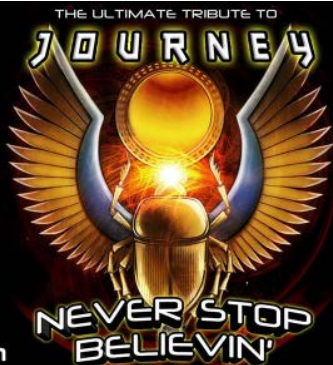


Amanda Ortega (Assistant Director) is ecstatic to be making her debut at the Athens Theater as assistant director alongside this insanely talented cast and crew. I guess you could say I am their "#1 fan"! Her most recent credits include Emma Nolan in *The Prom* at Theater West End & The News Journal Center, and Medium Allison in *Fun Home* at Actors Theater of Charlotte. She would like to thank Trevor and Frank for giving her this opportunity, her beautiful Wife, Chloe, for being her endless love and support, as well as her family and friends for theirs. Enjoy the show!

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MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Tori Oakes (Scenic Designer/Prop Designer/TD/Scenic Build) 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 *Margaritaville*, *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.



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 *Margaritaville*, *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.

THE ATHENS THEATRE PRESENTS

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BABIES**

Ozzy Osbourne

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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.



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!

A promotional poster for a concert. At the top, it says "The Athens Theatre Presents" in orange. The main title "Brothers Again" is written in a large, stylized, yellow font. Below the title is a group of seven men, likely the Allman Brothers Band, dressed in classic rock attire like leather jackets and hats. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern. At the bottom left, it says "November 4th" and "AthensDeland.com" in orange. At the bottom right, it says "A Celebration Of THE ALLMAN BROTHERS" in white and black text.

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~MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM~



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.



Amanda Tyler (House Manager), a native Floridian, began in theatre in 1993 at Seaside Music Theater in Daytona Beach, working as Wardrobe supervisor, assistant to the Resident Costume Designer and manager of costume rentals. She finds herself behind the curtain for the first time as the Athens Theatre House Manager. She is excited to be joining Athens as

it continues to grow, and takes great pride in being part of bringing amazing art to the stage in DeLand. She welcomes all to the Athens Theatre and hopes that you enjoy the show!

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~MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM~



Avery Tyler (Stage Manager) is excited to be part of the Misery team! At the Athens, she can be found behind the scenes, most recently stage managing *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She has also been the ASM for *Noises Off*, *Scrooge!*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Rock of Ages*. When not at the Athens, Avery teaches English at Deltona High School. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for all their hard work as well as thank the audience for supporting the arts in their community.



Trinity Baker (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be back at the Athens Theatre as ASM! Since completing her internship in 2019 here at the Athens Theatre, she has gone on to work as a Production/Technical Staff at The Henegar Center in Melbourne, FL, as well as the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando, FL as a member of the production crew. She is also currently receiving her A.A. at Daytona State College and then will continue on to her Bachelor's and major in Marketing.

We Thank our Athens Theatre Staff

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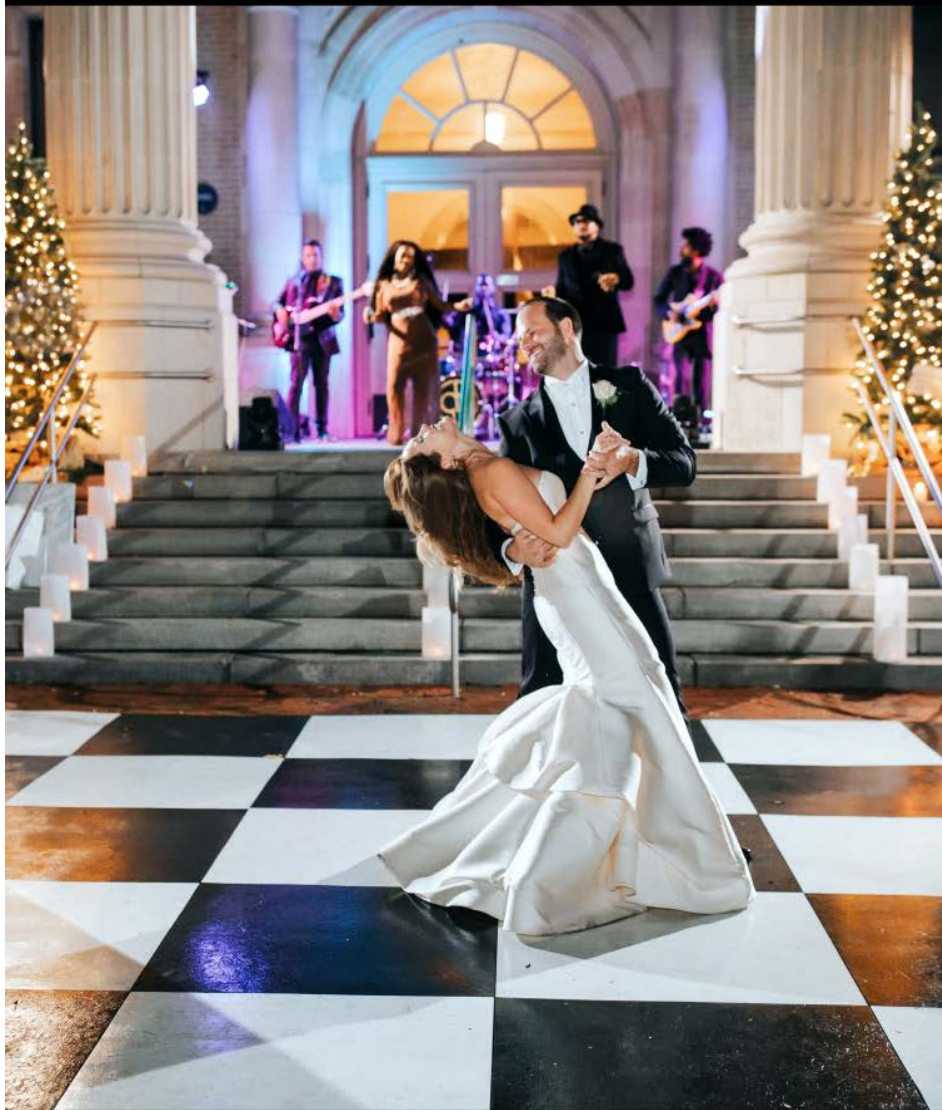
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~MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM~



Bill Warriner (Fight Director) Bill is a graduate of AMDA in NYC. He's been an active fight director for 31 years, and his work has been seen on almost every Central Florida stage. He is the resident fight director for Phantasmagoria and Valencia College.



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!

A promotional graphic for 3 Smart Cookies. At the top, it says "WE THANK" in purple. Below that is a circular logo for "3 Smart Cookies" with the tagline "my occasion royal icing cookies" and a phone number "386-479-1069". The logo features three cartoon children. Below the logo, it says "FOR HELPING CATER OUR BOX SEATS" in purple. The background is pink and features various baking ingredients and finished cookies: a bowl of white icing, a bowl of yellow batter, a tray of eggs, a tray of cookies, and several Polaroid photos of different cookie designs. At the bottom, the website "WWW.3SMARTCOOKIES.COM" is written in purple.



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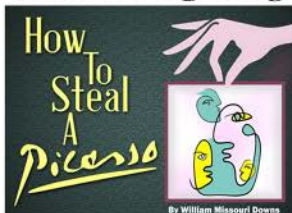
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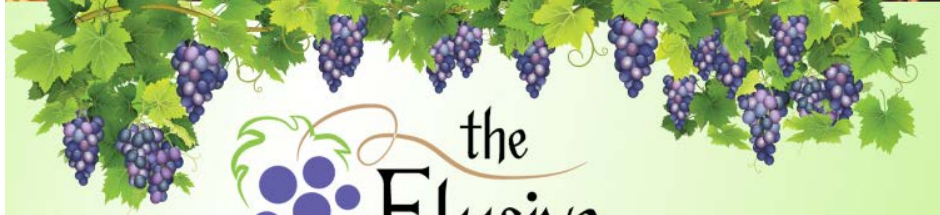
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