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No day but today...

# RENT

Book, Music  
& Lyrics  
by  
Jonathan Larson

Apr 12 - May 5

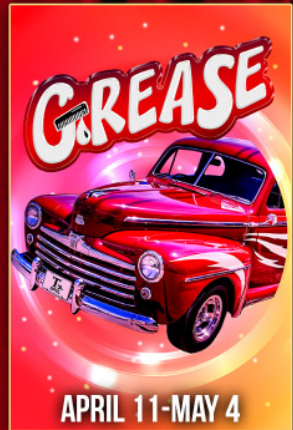
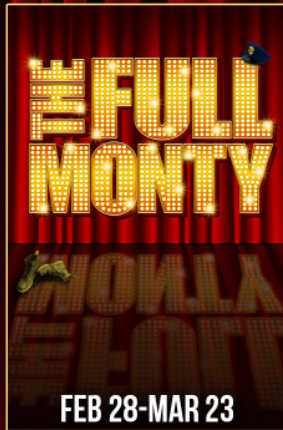
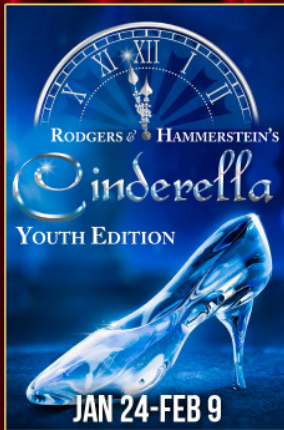
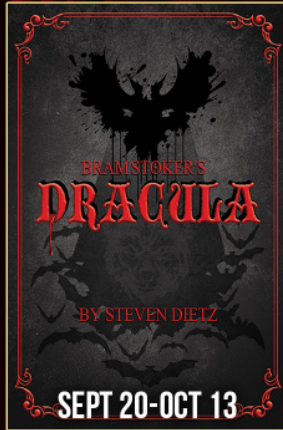
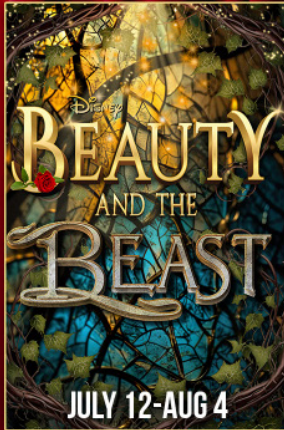


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# RENT

**Book, Music and Lyrics by  
Jonathan Larson**

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Steve Skinner**

**Original Concept/Additional Lyrics  
Billy Aronson**

**Music Supervision  
and Additional Arrangements  
Tim Weil**

**Dramaturg  
Lynn Thomson**

**RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and New York Theatre Workshop**

**Director  
Frank Ramirez**

**Choreographer  
Kim Ball**

**Music Director  
Chris Endsley**

**Intimacy Choreographer  
Jarrett Poore**

**Lighting Designer  
Annamarie Duggan**

**Scenic Design  
Michael Brewer**

**Sound Designer  
Lamar Hickley**

**Lighting Director/ATD  
Nicholas Hogan**

**Costume Designer  
Tamara  
Marke-Lares**

**Scenic Charge Artist  
Bonnie Sprung**

**Production Supervisor/  
Stage Manager  
Diane McLean**

**Prop Designer/  
Scenic Builder/TD  
Tori Oakes**

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Emerson Short**

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**April 12th - May 5th | The Athens Theatre**

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### Director's Notes...

In the spring of 1996, I witnessed a show that would deeply influence my journey in live theatre: *RENT*. *RENT* showcased diversity and illuminated the very human side of the HIV/AIDS crisis, depression, and drug addiction. It allowed the world to delve into the experiences of those affected by these issues through the lens of human emotion, conveyed by the poignant and powerful lyrics and music of the late Jonathan Larson, whose untimely death before the Broadway premiere sent shockwaves through the arts community.

As someone who grew up in the NYC area, an aspiring artist, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and of Puerto Rican descent, I finally found a show where I could see myself, my friends, and my loved ones—some of whom were taken too early by the HIV/AIDS epidemic—represented on stage. This moment sparked the inspiration that shapes who I am today.

It has always been my dream to be a part of or present *RENT* in some form. Today, that dream has become reality, and I am honored and privileged to present *RENT* at the Athens Theatre as the director of this show. This project is supported by an incredible creative team including Kim Ball (Choreographer), Chris Endsley (Music Director), and Jarrett Poore (Intimacy Choreographer), and we have assembled one of the most talented casts ever seen on the Athens stage, with support from dedicated designers, crew, staff, and a live band.

What you are about to experience on stage today is a project approached with empathy, humility, and compassion, with the intention of challenging any preconceived notions and leaving our theatre having immersed yourself in a sea of unity and understanding.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for attending our entire 2023/2024 season, but above all, for joining us on this journey today to 1989 in the Lower East Side of New York City to witness the essence of community—love.

*Frank Ramirez*  
*RENT* 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.

# RENT

The writer and creator of *RENT*, Jonathan Larson's creative journey with the musical began when he collaborated with friend Billy Aronson, who initially conceived the idea of a modern adaptation of the opera *La Bohème*. Larson's passion for the project led him to work tirelessly on it while juggling odd jobs, such as waiting tables at the Moondance Diner. Despite setbacks and the eventual parting of ways with Aronson, Larson poured his soul into completing the musical, drawing inspiration from his own life experiences, including his time living in a SoHo apartment with his best friend Jonathan Burkhart.

Tragically, Larson's health issues began to escalate during the final rehearsals for *RENT* culminating in his sudden passing due to an aortic dissection believed to have been caused by undiagnosed Marfan syndrome the night before its Off-Broadway premiere. Despite the shock and grief, the cast and crew persevered, honoring Larson's memory with a legendary first performance dedicated to him. The success of the production led to a Broadway transfer, where *RENT* received critical acclaim and earned Larson three posthumous Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, solidifying his place in theatrical history.

Larson's impact extends beyond his contributions to the stage, as evidenced by the establishment of the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation, which continues to support aspiring artists in his memory. His music, including iconic songs like *La Vie Bohème* and *Seasons of Love*, remains beloved by fans worldwide, serving as anthems of hope and resilience. Through his enduring legacy, Larson's message of seizing the moment and embracing love lives on, inspiring future generations to create, innovate, and cherish each day.



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# MEET THE CAST



**Isabel Bernal** (Mimi Marquez) is excited to be making her Athens Theatre debut! She is a graduate from the University of Central Florida with a degree in Theatre Studies and a minor in Dance. Most recently you may have seen her as Lucille/Elf Ellen in Junie B. in *Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* at the Orlando Family Stage. Other past credits include *54* at The Renaissance Theatre, Sarah Sanderson in *Winnie's Rock Cauldron Cabaret*, Vanessa in *In the Heights* (Theatre West End), Andra Adams in *Gorgeous!* (The Renaissance Theater), Chorus/Magdalena in *La Medéa* (The Renaissance Theater), and Nina in *In the Heights* (Breakthrough Theatre Company). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous love and support.



**Grace Boynton** (Maureen Johnson) is “over the moon” to be back at one of her favorite places to perform. Orlando credits include *The Cocaine Play* (Devil), *Gorgeous* (Ashley-Ann Peters), *9 to 5* (Judy Bernly), *Holiday Inn* (Daphne), *Wedding Singer* (Julia Sullivan), *Hair* (Tribe) and *Legally Blonde* (Kristine). Off Broadway performances include showcases and cabarets at Symphony Space and Don't Tell Mamas NYC. She is an alumnus of Harrison School for the Performing Arts, Broadway Artist Alliance (NYC) and University of Central Florida. She would like to thank her friends and family for their unconditional support, and this incredible creative team for bringing something so important and powerful to Deland. Viva La Vie Bohème!



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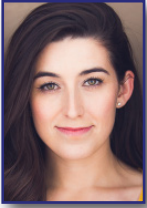
-JOE HEARN



# MEET THE CAST



**Troy Brightson** (Mr. Jefferson, Pastor, Ensemble) is elated to join the ensemble of *RENT* at the Athens Theatre, marking his first appearance on this prestigious stage. With a background that spans both acting and choreography, Troy has previously shone in *Urinetown* at the Daytona Playhouse and lent his choreographic talents to *Firebringer* at the City Repertory Theatre. Beyond the theatre, Troy's vocal skills have seen him perform alongside nationally recognized gospel artists, adding depth to his artistic repertoire.



**Samm Carroll** (Mark's Mom, Ensemble) is ecstatic to be making her Athens Theatre debut! A New York native, she has performed professionally for the last 15 years all around the country, and she is thrilled to continue that journey here in Florida. Past favorite credits include Trixie in the National Tour of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, Rachel in *Margaritaville*, Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, and Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins*. Thank you to her supportive family and friends, 85-pound bulldog, and husband Jeremy for helping her continue to follow her dreams.



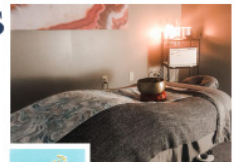
**Noah Clark** (Benjamin Coffins III, Roger U/S) is very excited for his sixth show with the Athens Theatre! Noah has been seen at various theaters in Nashville, TN as well as the Orlando area in roles such as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing... Forum*, Shrek in *Shrek TYA*, Gomez in *The Addams Family*, Pippin in *Pippin*, and Chad in *All Shook Up*, among others. When not doing musicals, Noah runs the audio company HCM Productions where he produces music for numerous theatrical productions as well as recording vocals. He would like to thank the Athens Theatre, his friends, family, his cast, and God for providing a supportive space for this opportunity. Noah is so honored to be part of such an important show to so many people. There truly is "No Day But Today." Viva La Vie Bohème!



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# MEET THE CAST



**Erica deJongh** (Ensemble, Swing) Erica is thrilled to return to the Athens Theatre after last appearing as *The Witch in Into the Woods*. Previous credits include Violet in *9 to 5*, Dot/Marie in *Sunday in the Park with George*, and Linda in *Evil Dead the Musical*. Erica is originally from Connecticut and holds a BFA from Rhode Island College and is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC. In 2020 in support of The Athens Theatre she appeared in 2 virtual concerts, including *Virtually Yours: A Night at the Athens Theatre* which won a Regional Emmy Award. Other past Florida credits include Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* (Theatre West End), Marion in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Titusville Playhouse), and *Rock of Ages* (Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center). Some of her favorite roles include Maureen in *RENT*, Josephine in *Big Fish*, and Dainty June in *Gypsy*. A huge thank you to Frank, Kim, and Chris for letting me be a part of this beautiful production. Love to my husband Christopher, and our dog, Luna. IG: erica.dejongh



**Christopher deJongh** (Roger Davis) is so excited to be creating and connecting with this amazing cast! *RENT* has always had a special place in his heart and taught him from an early age about community and the families we find in life that lift us up even in our darkest times. Before transplanting from Massachusetts, Christopher performed in regional and community theaters around New England. He was last seen at The Athens as Hysterium in *A Funny Thing...* Some favorite past roles include Charlie in *Kinky Boots*, Peter in *Bare: A Pop Opera* and Jerry in *The Full Monty*. Chris would like to thank Frank, Chris, and Kim for giving him this opportunity and for their collaboration and artistry, and the entire crew for their dedication and hard work! Special thanks to his pup Luna for being such a floof and his amazing wife whom he actually met in a previous production of *RENT!*



A promotional image for a musical performance. On the left, two men in dark suits and white shirts are shown. The man on the right is holding a guitar. On the right side, there is a graphic with a black background and white stars. It features two acoustic guitars and the text: "THE EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE" in yellow, "FEATURING" in white, and "THE ZMED BROTHERS" in yellow. At the bottom left, the text "May 1st • 7:30pm" is written in white.

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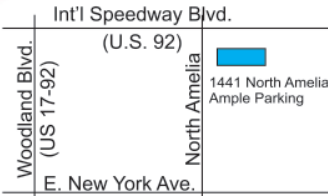
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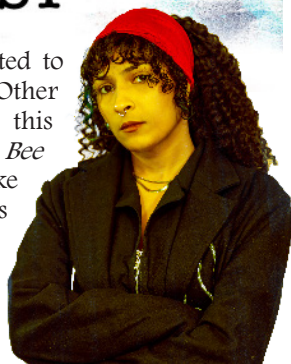
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# MEET THE CAST



**Jocelyn Evans** (Joanne Jefferson) is delighted to be revisiting the Athens stage once again. Other roles they've enjoyed performing on this stage include: Olive Ostrovsky in *Spelling Bee* and Justice in *Rock of Ages*. They would like to thank the entire team for making this experience possible as well as amazing.



**Donald Fields** (Steve, Ensemble, Benny U/S) is absolutely humbled by the opportunity to be part of this production. Donald has been a performer at the Athens since 2015 and serves on the Board of Directors. Most recently, he wasted away in last summer's production of *Escape to Margaritaville*. Some of Donald's past work here includes *The Fantasticks*, *The Producers*, *Singing in the Rain*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Holiday Inn*, *A Christmas Story*, *Sister Act*, *The Addams Family*, and *Spamalot*. Donald thanks his amazing, supportive family for their unconditional love and acceptance. He also wants to thank all his friends, especially his Lake Brantley crew for their encouragement and help making this possible for him. Finally, Donald must thank Frank, Chris, and Kim for making a dream he's had since high school come true. Art has the power to change lives. When Donald first saw RENT 20 years ago, it changed his life. More important today than ever: "There's only now. There's only here."

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A large promotional image for the Black Opry Revue. It features a collage of performers in various styles of country and blues music. The text "BLACK OPRY" is prominently displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "Revue" written in a large, elegant, black cursive script below it. At the bottom, the date "May 10th" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a light, hazy sky.

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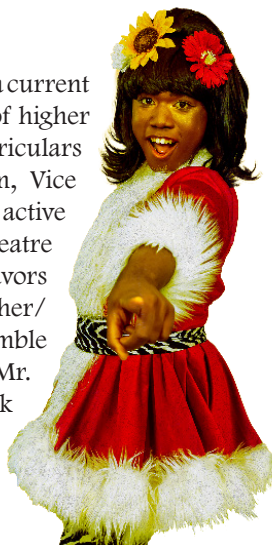
**Joshua Freeman** (Gordon, Mr. Grey, Ensemble) (He/Him) is ecstatic to perform in the Athens Theatre production of *RENT!* Other notable performances of his were Bud in *How to Succeed in Business (Without Really Trying)* and Frederick Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein*, both of which were at the Shoestring Theater. He has also played Kodaly in *She Loves Me* (twice!), both shows produced at Theater West End and the News Journal Center of Daytona State College, and as Lucas Beineke in *The Addams Family*. He hopes you enjoy this vitally important show!



**Zachary Goodrich** (Ensemble, Swing) is excited to make his Athens Theatre debut! Other shows he has been in around the area include his roles at The Daytona Playhouse as Axel Magee in *Don't Drink the Water*, Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown*, and at New Smyrna Beach Little Theatre as The Cat In The Hat in *Seussical*. He has always dreamed of getting to be a part of this amazing show, thank you. No day but today!



**D'Montrae Harris** (Angel Dumott Schunard) is a current senior at DeLand High School, and is in pursuit of higher academic and artistic education. Extracurriculars include serving as Captain of his dance team, Vice President of his choir program as well as an active member and choreographer of his school's theatre program, whilst pursuing choreographic endeavors around Central Florida. Recent Credits include Choreographer/Costard in Orlando Shakes *Love's Labour's Lost*, Harlem Ensemble in *Ragtime*, Michael Hobbs in *Elf*, and Choreographer/Mr. Martine in *The Bakers Wife*. D'Montrae would like to thank his arts teachers, family, and coaches as well as the creative team for trusting him with this role. La vieBohème! Insta: @dmontraeharris





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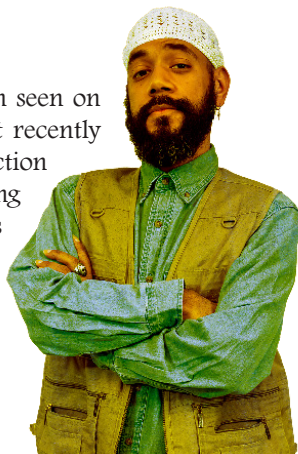
# MEET THE CAST



**Jonny Jones** (Paul/Ensemble) is excited to be returning to the Athens Theatre in *RENT!* Education: AMDA NYC. Theatre: Athens Theatre - *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Gymnasia), Theatre South Playhouse - *Matilda* (Agatha Trunchbull), *Urinetown* (Hot Blades), *The Prom* (Barry). Osceola Arts – *Xanadu* (Melpomene), and *Smile* (Big Bob). Director/Choreographer: *Is There Life After High School?*, *Smile*, *I Wanna Dance with Somebody*. Windermere Prep - *Rock of Ages*, *A Night of Cameron Mackintosh*, *Aristocats*, and *The Little Mermaid*. Dancer: Countless Disney/Universal shows, parades, & special events. Love to Mom!



**Eduardo A Rivera** (Tom Collins) has been seen on various stages across Central Florida. Most recently at the Athens theater, he was in the production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, where he got to sing about Honeysuckle Roses and Big Feet. He's coming back to Collins after years away and is proud of the growth he's shown and happy to share it with you. Thank you to his friends, burlesque family and of course, real family. He hopes you enjoy the show!



**Victoria Rivera** (Mimi's Mother, Ensemble) is a 2023 graduate of University of Central Florida where she also got to perform with UCF Opera. She has previously been seen on Eastern Florida State College's stage as Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and as Consuela in *West Side Story* at The Henegar. This is Victoria's first time on the Athens stage, and she hopes everyone enjoys the show!

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# MEET THE CAST



**Gabriella Smith** (Ensemble, Swing) is excited to return to the Athens Theatre, where she was recently seen as Panacea in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and Mrs. Snoring Man in *White Christmas*. She is studying theater at the University of Central Florida. Previous credits include *As You Like It* (musician, Phoebe U/S, *Denis U/S*), *Mary Poppins* (Dance Captain/ Ensemble), *Romeo and Juliet* (Lord Capulet) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts). She would like to thank the entire creative team for this fabulous opportunity!



**Lauren Stromak** (Alexi Darling, Roger's Mom, Ensemble) is a performer, choreographer, and educator originally from South Florida with a degree in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida. She is proud to teach theater and dance to young performers at the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. Lauren is over the moon to be back on the Athens stage, where she was most recently seen in the ensemble of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Some of Lauren's favorite previous credits include playing Bebe in *A Chorus Line*, Annie in *Chicago*, Ensemble/Elizabeth Benning US in *Young Frankenstein*, and Ensemble/Charlotte Dennon in *Elf*. Thank you to her family and boyfriend for their constant support.

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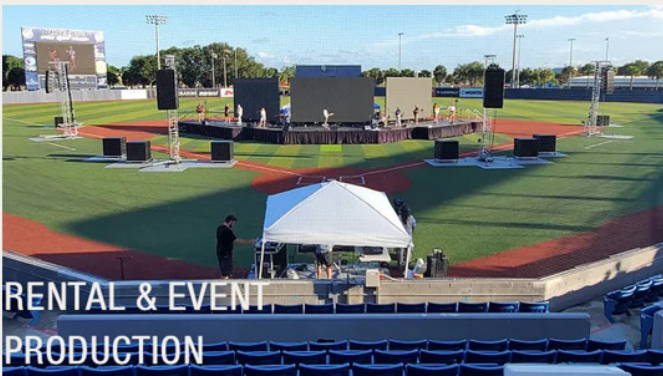


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# MEET THE CAST



**Zach Thomas** (Mark Cohen) After a 5 yearlong theatrical hiatus, Zach is happy to be making his return to theatre in a production that has always hit close to home. Previous roles include *Spring Awakening* (Moritz), *Beauty and the Beast* (The Beast), *Godspell* (Judas), *Next to Normal* (Gabe), as well as receiving a Broadway World Award in 2019 for his performance as Mark in *RENT* at Titusville Playhouse. Zach is the lead singer of Orlando Punk Rock Band Sad Academy. Thank you to all my friends and family for the consistent support, the cast and crew for making this experience incredible, and biggest thanks to one of my heroes Jonathan Larson. Viva La Vie Bohème! @zachthomasofficial @sadacademyofficial



**Alexa Villanueva** (Mrs. Jefferson, Ensemble) is excited to be returning to the Athens Theater. You may have seen her last as Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins* at the Ritz Theater in Sanford or in the Choir of the Athens Theater production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She is excited to be a part of such an amazing group of talented people! She dedicates all her performances for *RENT* to her uncle, Christian. She also wants to thank her family, friends, and Jonah for their constant love and support. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful production of *RENT*!

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# MEET THE BAND

**Chris Endsley** (Piano) See bio in Meet The Production Team section



**Sean Strott** (Bass Guitar) is a 2016 graduate of Stetson's School of Music where he graduated with a Bachelor's in Music Education. Sean is currently the director of orchestras and the guitar instructor at Deltona High School. He has been a regular performer at The Athens Theater since 2014. His performances include *9 to 5*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, and *I Love you, You're Perfect, Now Change*, to name a few.



**Scott Niebauer** (Guitar 2) Scott received his Master of Music degree in classical guitar performance from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee and his Bachelor of Music degree from the State University of New York College at Fredonia where he majored in music education and music composition. Scott has performed and taught music in various areas of the United States, and studied and performed classical Spanish guitar while on a student exchange program in Caracas, Venezuela.

Scott also spent time in San Francisco, California where he took part in the San Francisco Guitar Society and was employed by the world-renowned Guitar Solo Publications. He has participated in various masterclasses and informal lessons with some of the world's leading classical guitar luminaries such as Leo Brouwer, Christopher Parkening, Luis Zea, and Roland Dyens. Scott is currently teaching class guitar with Volusia County Schools and offering private guitar lessons through Guitar Center, Inc. while continuing to perform guitar at various venues and events around the Central Florida region.



**Greg Pakstis** (Guitar 1) Greg's credits include 20 years @Walt Disney World (*Kids of the Kingdom*, *Tarzan Rocks*, EPCOT), Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Sarasota Orchestra, many area theater shows. A commercial freelance player for over 40 years, working shows for contractors/entertainment companies. Artists backed include Bernadette Peters, Bob Hope, George Burns, Tommy Tune, Bobby Vinton, Ben E. King, Anthony Newly, Danny Ganz, Joe Piscapo, The Platters, The Drifters The Tokens, The Crests, and Don Rickles to name a few.

Greg is happy to be back at Athens Theatre for the third straight year

**Craig Uppercue** (Percussion) See bio in Meet the Administrative Team section.



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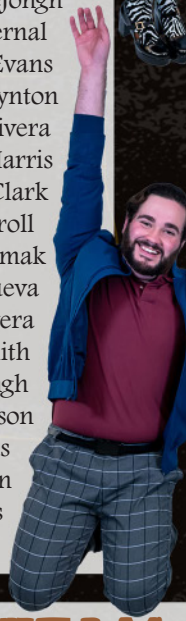
The advertisement features a close-up of a woman's smiling face on the left. A small image of a dental crown is placed over her teeth. The background is a dark, textured grey.

# RENT



## ~ CAST ~

Mark Cohen.....	Zach Thomas
Roger Davis.....	Christopher deJongh
Mimi Marquez.....	Isabel Bernal
Joanne Jefferson.....	Jocelyn Evans
Maureen Johnson.....	Grace Boynton
Tom Collins.....	Eduardo Rivera
Angel Dumott Schunard.....	D'Montrae Harris
Benjamin Coffins III.....	Noah Clark
Mark's Mom/Allison/Ensemble.....	Samm Carroll
Alexi Darling/Roger's Mom/Ensemble.....	Lauren Stromak
Mrs. Jefferson/Ensemble.....	Alexa Villanueva
Mimi's Mother/Ensemble.....	Victoria Rivera
Ensemble/Swing.....	Gabriella Smith
Ensemble/Swing.....	Erica deJongh
Mr. Jefferson/Pastor/Restaurant Person/Ensemble.....	Troy Brightson
Steve/Ensemble.....	Donald Fields
Gordon/The Man/Mr. Grey/Ensemble.....	Joshua Freeman
Paul/Squeegee Man/Ensemble.....	Jonny Jones
Ensemble.....	Zachary Goodrich



## ~ PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Frank Ramirez
Choreographer.....	Kim Ball
Music Director.....	Chris Endsley**
Intimacy Choreographer.....	Jarrett Poore
Lighting Designer.....	Annmarie Duggan*
Scenic Design.....	Michael Brewer
Sound Design.....	Lamar Hickey
Costume Designer.....	Tamara Marke-Lares
Scenic Charge Artist.....	Bonnie Sprung
Scenic Build Crew.....	Jonathan Jackson, Ethan Roth, Henry Roth, Diego Caso
Lighting Director/ATD.....	Nicholas Hogan
Production Supervisor./Stage Manager.....	Diane McLean

\*Denotes member of IATSE Local USA 829 United Scenic Artists and Designers





## ~ ACT I ~

Tune Up A ..... Mark, Roger  
 Voice Mail #1 ..... Mark's Mother  
 Tune Up B ..... Mark, Roger, Collins, Benny  
 Rent ..... Company  
 Christmas Bells #1 ..... Homeless Man  
 You Okay, Honey ..... Angel, Collins  
 Tune Up - Reprise ..... Mark, Roger  
 One Song Glory ..... Roger  
 Light My Candle ..... Mimi, Roger  
 Voice Mail #2 ..... Mr. Jefferson, Mrs. Jefferson  
 Today for You A ..... Collins, Mark, Roger  
 Today for You B ..... Mark, Roger, Collins, Angel  
 You'll See ..... Benny, Mark, Roger, Collins, Angel  
 Tango Maureen - Intro ..... Mark, Joanne  
 Tango Maureen ..... Mark, Joanne  
 Support Group ..... Company  
 Out Tonight ..... Mimi  
 Another Day ..... Roger, Mimi, Company  
 Will I ..... Company  
 On The Street ..... Company  
 Santa Fe ..... Collins, Angel, Mark  
 I'll Cover You ..... Angel, Collins  
 We're Okay ..... Joanne  
 Christmas Bells ..... Company  
 Over the Moon ..... Maureen  
 La Vie Bohème/I Should Tell You ..... Company

## ~ ACT II ~

Seasons of Love ..... Company  
 Happy New Year A .... Roger, Mark, Mimi, Collins,  
 Angel, Maureen, Joanne  
 Voice Mail #3 ..... Mark's Mother  
 Voice Mail #4 ..... Alexi Darling  
 Happy New Year B .... Roger, Mark, Mimi, Collins,  
 Angel, Maureen, Joanne, Benny  
 Take Me or Leave Me ..... Maureen, Joanne  
 Seasons of Love B ..... Company  
 Without You ..... Roger, Mimi  
 Voice Mail #5 ..... Alexi Darling  
 Contact ..... Company  
 I'll Cover You - Reprise ..... Collins, Company  
 Halloween ..... Mark  
 Goodbye Love ..... Roger, Mark, Mimi, Collins,  
 Maureen, Joanne, Benny  
 What You Own ..... Roger, Mark  
 Voice Mail #6 ..... Roger's Mother,  
 Mimi's Mother, Mark's Mother, Mr. Jefferson  
 Finale A ..... Company  
 Your Eyes ..... Roger  
 Finale B ..... Company



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Special ASL/English  
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## & TECHNICAL CREW ~

Assistant Stage Manager ..... Emerson Short  
 Prop Designer/Scenic Builder/TD ..... Tori Oakes  
 Costume Shop Manager ..... Amy Uppercue  
 Run Crew ..... Cadence Mimms, Reese Lieberman,  
 Xavi Soto-Colon, Ollie Baith  
 Lightboard Programmer ..... Diego Caso  
 Lightboard Operator ..... Madison Thompson  
 Spotlight Operators ..... Braeden Hunt, Megan Quiroga  
 Percussion ..... Craig Uppercue\*\*  
 Bass Guitar ..... Sean Strott  
 Piano ..... Chris Endsley  
 Guitar 1 ..... Greg Pakstis  
 Guitar 2 ..... Scott Niebauer

\*\*Denotes member of the Central Florida Musicians Association, AMF Local #389





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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Frank Ramirez (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 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/The Crane School of Music.

Frank is honored to be at the helm of *RENT* as the show's director and dedicates this production to the angels we have lost to AIDS, mental health, and addiction.





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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**Kim Ball** (Choreographer) is a well-known and recognized dance teacher and choreographer in the Central Florida area. She studied dance at Daytona State College and the University of South Florida and continued her studies in Orlando, New York, and Los Angeles. She was a Walt Disney World dancer and a private dance studio teacher for many years. She has choreographed for Seaside Music Theater, Orlando Family Stage, Orlando Shakes, The Athens, Theater at St. Luke's, Daytona State College, and Flagler College. Recent projects include *The SpongeBob Musical & True North: A Magical New Holiday Musical* (Orlando Family Stage), *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Evita* (Orlando Shakes), *Rock of Ages* (The Athens Theater), *Mary Poppins* and *The Little Mermaid* (Theater at St. Luke's) and *The Prom* (Daytona State College). She received her Master's Degree in Theater with a Musical Theater Concentration from UCF and is an Adjunct Dance Professor at UCF & Daytona State College.



**Chris Endsley** (Music Director) is a veteran professional Music Director having served as Music Director/Accompanist for Garden Theatre, UCF Conservatory Theatre, Rollins College, Athens Theatre, Theatre Winter Haven, Osceola Arts, Orlando Family Stage, Daytona State College, Granbury Opera House (Texas), and Seaside Music Theatre. Chris is currently Music Director for Virgin Voyages cruise line and Organist/Director of Traditional Worship at North Lake Presbyterian Church, Lady Lake. He has toured the country as a concert organist and conducted workshops in church music development. Chris taught Choral Music, Musical Theatre and AP Music Theory for Volusia County Schools for 25 years. He 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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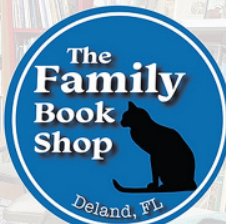
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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Jarrett Poore** (Intimacy Choreographer) (They/Them) holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre and an M.A. in Theatre from UCF. They have worked professionally as an actor, director, and teaching artist at local and national levels with companies such as the Orlando Family Stage (formerly the Orlando Repertory Theatre), the Orlando Shakes, and the Chicago Underscore Theatre as well as making magic at Universal Studios and Walt Disney World! Favorite credits: Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Orlando Family Stage); The Baker in *Into the Woods* (ME Theatre); Martha/Rocky/Billy/Maxwell in *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* (Orlando Shakes) Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Orlando Shakes); Officer in *Comedy of Errors* (Orlando Shakes) Sid in *SCREAM GAYS* (Orlando Fringe); The Producer in *The Spider Queen* (Orlando Fringe; New York Theatre Festival); The Stage Manager in *Oh Hi, Johnny!* (Chicago Underscore Theatre). Commercials and Television: *Stranger Things* (Netflix), *Sleeper App*, Universal Orlando Resort. They are the current president of The Orlando Artist Guild. Love to Mommie Dearest, Bryan, and of course, Noni. IG: @jarrettpoore Web: jarrettpoore.com



**Annmarie Duggan** (Lighting Designer) is excited to return to the Athens Theatre after previously designing *Into the Wood*, *Clue*, *Ragtime* and *Hunchback*. Ms. Duggan has designed more than four hundred productions in her career. Which included the Off-Broadway production of *Clue the Musical* (Players Theatre). Regional Credits: American Girl Place Theatre, Chicago, LA, and New York, Skylight Music Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre, Fulton Operas House, Pittsburgh Playhouse and Potsdam Music Theatre to name a few. Ms. Duggan is a Professor at the University of Pittsburgh; she teaches in the areas of Lighting Design and Stage Management. Ms. Duggan also works in application development for theatre professionals. You can find more information about her design work and mac applications at [www.amddesignonline.com](http://www.amddesignonline.com).





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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Michael S. Brewer** (Scenic Design) is a 1987 graduate of Wright State University in theatre design and technology. He started working as a scenic artist in regional theaters, the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, La Jolla Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, and Cleveland Playhouse. He is currently based in Ohio and has been designing for local theaters there. At the Athens, he has designed *Guys and Dolls*, *A Christmas Story*, *Clue*, *Elf*, *I love you, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *Ragtime*. He is looking forward to closing out this season with the musical *RENT*.



**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 Director/ATD) 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 Theatre 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 Theatre. 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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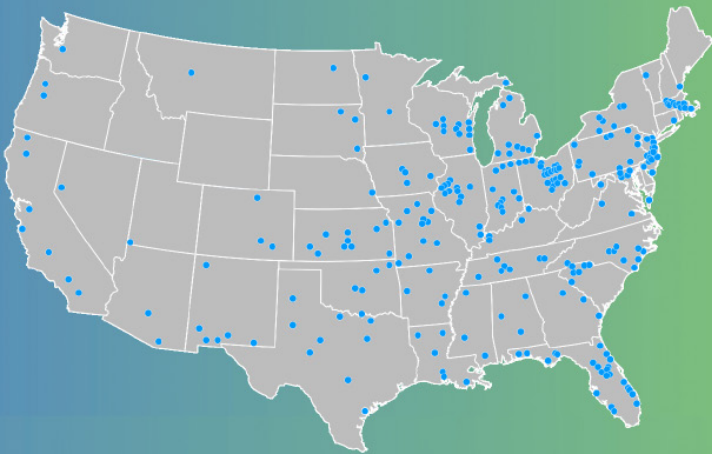




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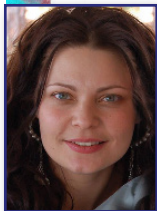
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## MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**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 *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.



**Bonnie Sprung** (Scenic Charge Artist) just had fun as Scenic Charge for *Forum* and recently designed and painted *Frozen, Jr.* 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 300 shows in Orlando and New York. She worked as Set/Scenic designer for the BCC Summer Fine Arts program and the JCC Center Players. Stage Manager, Sound and Graphics for Southern Winds Theatre. She has also designed for GenY Productions, Florida Theatrical Association, First Academy Middle and High School, Boone High, Central Florida Community Arts, The Masters Academy, JCC Youth Academy, The Ensemble Company, Sparkyl Entertainment and many more. Some of her nominated designs include *Cabaret*, *The Flick*, *Bat Boy the Musical*, *Jane Eyre the Musical*, *Torch Song*, *Clybourne Park*, *Perfect Arrangement*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Hysteria* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*. Bonnie has over 30 yrs. experience in curating, judging various art exhibits and thespian competitions. She 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



**Diane McLean** (Production Supervisor, Stage Manager) 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 Theatre, 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 Theatre for the opportunity to engage in theatre once again in her new hometown of DeLand. Love to H, C, and G.



**Tori Oakes** (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 *Erving Berlin's White Christmas*, *Misery*, *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.

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*The OBB*

June 26th 7:30pm

A promotional banner for a performance. On the left, a man in a dark suit plays a trumpet. In the center, a woman in a red dress and a man in a black suit are shown. On the right, three women in red and white star-patterned dresses are posing. The background is dark blue with white stars. The text 'Patriotic Salute' is at the top, 'The OBB' is in a red circle in the center, and 'June 26th 7:30pm' is at the bottom.

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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Emerson Short** (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to be back with Athens Theatre! She is currently a student over at Daytona State College and will be getting her AA degree in 2024. Her most recent stage management credits include *Frozen, Jr.* at Athens, *The Prom*, *Leonard Bernstein's New York*, and *The Glass Menagerie* at Daytona State. She has also stage managed at the International Orlando Fringe Festival for productions such as *The Murray Method with Beth Marshall Presents* and *The Inclusivity Project*.

Emerson also has various technical credits such as *Assassins*, *Into the Woods*, and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* as the lighting designer. She would like to thank her mentors Gabe Barnert, Samantha Stern, and Diane McLean for their guidance, the Athens Theatre for the opportunity, and her friends and family for their support.



**Amy Uppercue** (Costume Shop Manager, Production Associate) 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 *Footloose: Youth Edition*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *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.

## We Thank our Athens Theatre Staff

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FRANK RAMIREZ

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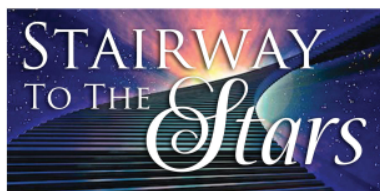
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## MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



**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. 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) See Production Team Bios.



**Craig Uppercue** (Development & Community Partnerships) A Stetson University (BM/BME) & Grand Canyon University (M.Ed) alumnus, Mr. Uppercue has taught for 20 years in the public school systems of Florida, currently serving as a Fine Arts specialist in Volusia County Schools. Mr. Uppercue has been with the Athens Theatre since 2011 and had the wonderful privilege of serving as Artistic Director for 10 years. He is now honored to be playing a continued part in the life of

the theatre. 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. Craig and his wonderful wife, Amy, live locally, enjoying every moment as they watch their three daughters grow up!

An advertisement for the Advanced Urology Institute. It features a blue sky background with two hands framing the text. The text includes the logo 'AUI' with a star, 'ADVANCED UROLOGY INSTITUTE', and the tagline 'LOOKING AT HEALTHCARE FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.' At the bottom, it provides the website 'www.AdvancedUrologyInstitute.com' and contact information: '685 Peachwood Dr • DeLand • FL 32720 Phone: 386•736•3463'.



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# MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



**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.



**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 Theatre 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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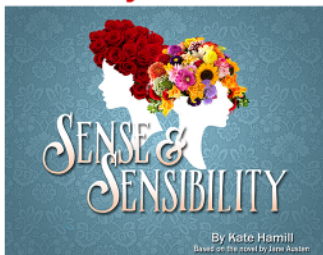
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### Flagler Playhouse

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Dates and New Location  
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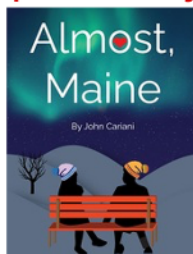
### Gateway Center for the Arts

DeBary  
gatewaycenterforthearts.org  
April 26 - May 5th



### The Little Theatre

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NSBPlayers.org  
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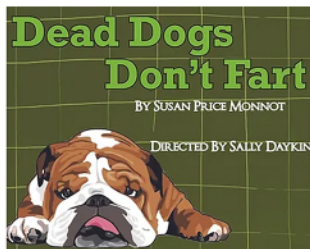
### The Ritz Theater

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ritztheatersanford.com  
May 10 - 19



### Shoestring Theatre

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