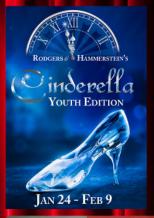
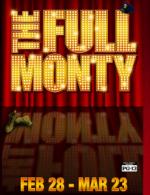
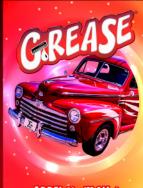
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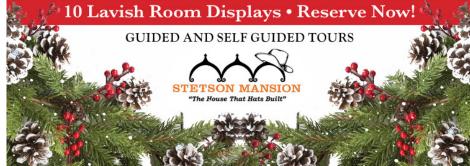
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Director's Notes...

Tis the season to present A Christmas Carol! Again? Year after year? There are more than 100 movies and TV adaptations. Even the Muppets and Daffy Duck got in on it!! The same old story about a grouchy greedy old curmudgeon back in the olden times who is visited by ghosts and in the end (spoiler alert!), he's nice!!

In studying the script, I realized that this story resonates beyond the past. It speaks to us right now. That is why you won't hear proper British accents tonight. I wanted us to hear ourselves in the story. Charles Dickens thought of A Christmas Carol as a way to help open the hearts of the prosperous and powerful, towards the not as well off or powerful. As Fred, Scrooge's nephew, says Christmas is a time when men and women open their hearts and think of people "below" them as if they were fellow passengers in life. Yes, there are differences - in appearance, status, values, beliefs,

abilities - but we are all fellow passengers. Dickens chose the title "A Christmas Carol" because he wanted to convey the idea that the story's message of generosity and redemption would spread wider, like a traditional carol is shared from person to person to person, acting as a powerful and uplifting call to action. The call to generosity and kindness.

What a wonderful and caring family this Athens Theatre is. A gem of DeLand. I am so honored and grateful to be part of it. God bless, Every One.

Uiffer Clarke Director of A Christmas Carol!

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.



MORET THUE CAST



Mae Baustert (Ensemble) is excited to be making her Athens Theatre debut and return to the stage after a two-year hiatus during which she worked at Walt Disney World in Entertainment Costuming, designing and building costumes for productions in her hometown of Chicagoland. Mae's past theatre credits include Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mimi/Hot Box Dancer in *Guys and Dolls*, Various Roles in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and The Baker's Wife in *Into*

the Woods. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Blake Leslee Blair (Young Ebenezer) is an 11-year-old 6th grader at DeLand Middle School. Most recently seen in *Oliver* (Orphan) at the Shoestring Theater, his past favorite productions include *Willy Wonka Kids* (Augustus Gloop) and *Annie Kids* (Daddy Warbucks) with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. Not only is Blake very involved in theatre, acting, and singing, he is a 2nd degree green belt in karate!



Emily Crain (Ensemble) is thrilled to join the cast of *A Christmas Carol* in her Athens Theatre debut! As an Orlando local, Emily has worked with Universal Orlando and private entertainment agencies both as an actor and freelance vocalist. Some performance credits include *The Pirates of Penzance, Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Young Frankenstein*. BA Music/Vocal Performance, Rollins College. With much gratitude for all who brought her to this point!



Bradyn Darrow (Peter) is very excited to be appearing in yet another show at the Athens Theatre. He was last seen playing the role of Emmett Forrest in the ATYA summer production of *Legally Blonde, Jr.* In his most recent production, he was seen playing the role of the Artful Dodger at Shoestring in the show *Oliver*. Bradyn has played many other roles including Hans (*Frozen, Jr.*), Edmund (*Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*), Bruce (*Matilda, Jr.*), Cheshire Cat (*Alice in Wonderland*,

Jr.), along with many others. He is very thankful for the opportunity he has been given and would like to thank the entire team, his friends and family, and teachers for their support, and would like to thank God for the beautiful gifts he has been given.





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MORET THOE CAST



Jennifer Donon (Ensemble) is excited to join Athens for her first performance with this theater. However, Jennifer is no stranger to local community theater, having performed in numerous productions locally, including her most recent role as Jaqueline in *Don't Dress for Dinner;* additionally, she has performed in *Cheaper by the Dozen, Clue, Barefoot in the Park, 12 Angry Jurors, Dead Dogs Don't Fart* and two other locally written original plays. Jennifer has performed worldwide

as a featured adagio dancer with her husband in Las Vegas style review shows, as well as being a lead dancer, magicians assistant and company manager. A former music major at Portland State University and a Junior Olympic level gymnast, she is also a mother to 3 adult children, a new grandmother, and works full time for a local flooring franchise. She is delighted to perform with the talented cast here in one of her favorite shows and looks forward to many more theatrical adventures at Athens Theater.



Skylar Dowman (Mrs. Cratchit, Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on the Athens stage! She graduated from Reinhardt University with a BFA in Musical Theatre and minor in Dance and has been performing around Central Florida since. Skylar's favorite theatre credits include: 42nd Street (Halifax Repertory Theatre), White Christmas (Athens), Escape to Margaritaville (Athens), and Miracle on 34th Street (Beach Street Repertory Theatre). Besides performing, Skylar can be seen teaching at

Halifax Repertory Theatre and assisting with Children's Musical Theatre Workshop in Ormond Beach. She gives gratitude to her friends and family for their constant love and support.



Zachary Forestiere (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his debut at the Historic Athens Theatre. Zachary is recognized for his performances in regional theatre, including Shoestring Theatre, Little Theatre: New Smyrna Beach, and the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. He has appeared in print ads for Sky Zone and commercial work for Walt Disney World. Zachary made his debut as Peter Pan in the Little Theatre's production of *Peter Pan*, showcasing his vibrant spirit. His talents span a wide range,

including Tenor. Zach is delighted to join the ensemble for this rendition of *A Christmas Carol*, thank you to the creative team! Zachary would like to thank his family, friends, and coaches. He looks forward to sharing the magic of the season with you!





MIEET THIE CAST



Warren Frankos (Older Ebeneezer) is very excited to return to the Athens Theatre for this magical tale. Last seen in *Young Frankenstein* (Ensemble, Igor U/S) 42nd Street (Andy Lee) with Halifax Repertory Theatre, and West Side Story (Tiger) with With Love Productions. He's also just been cast in Outsiders: an Original Musical (Bob) showing in January. He would also like to thank a few people that have provided him some much-valued support and guidance, thank you Talina, Jack

and Sandy, Fredi, and Kelsey! Finally, I love you Mom, Mimi, Charlotte, Dad and Eliana, Kai and Laila, Grammy and Pepe, Robert, Alec, and of course Papa.



Josh Freeman (Fred) returns to the Athens Stage after his last performance in *RENT*. He was previously seen many years prior on the Athens stage as Ralphie in *A Christmas Story*. During that time, he's been in many smaller productions at The Shoestring, the Little Theater of NSB, and the News Journal Center with Daytona State College. He gives his thanks to his beautiful fiancé Nicole, and his loving and patient parents Dave and Paula. Enjoy the show!!



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MOEET THOE CAST



Michael Funaro (Ebenezer Scrooge) is proud and delighted to be back amongst his friends at the Athens Theater. Michael is thrilled to be recreating the role of Scrooge after performing the title role in *Scrooge the Musical*. Michael has also been seen on the Athens stage as King Arthur in *Spamalot*

along with several other Athens productions such as *Sweeney Todd, Les Misérables* and *Inherit the Wind.* Scrooge is a role with a large character journey and yet while he is notoriously cranky and mean spirited, his redemption and transformation are life lessons we can all learn from. Having the honor to create this character again, with the most amazing creative team and cast at the Athens is something I will cherish forever. Thank you to all of my Athens friends and to my beloved family for allowing me to pursue this opportunity. Merry Christmas everyone!



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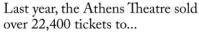


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MIETT THIE CAST



Aubree Grooms (Fan/ensemble) began performing with Athens Youth Academy at age five and is excited to be back for another holiday show, with her favorite *Scrooge* (Michael). She also performed in *Scrooge the Musical* in 2022 (Urchin Child/ensemble). Some other performances around Central Florida include *Matilda the Musical* (Matilda), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Bielke U/S, Ensemble), *Seussical the Musical* (Mayzie La Bird), *Oklahoma* (Ensemble), Stetson University Young Singers, and

Valerie Gregg's Music Studio. She thanks the creative team and Ms. Valerie for their support!



Everlee Grooms (Janet, Ensemble) is happy to be back at Athens for another holiday show! She previously performed in *Scrooge the Musical* (Martha Cratchit, Ensemble). She can often be found performing around Central Florida, and recent performances include *Fiddler On the Roof* (Hodel U/S, Ensemble), *Oklahoma* (Laurie), *Legally Blonde, Jr.* (Vivienne), *Footloose School Edition* (Rusty), *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville* (Ensemble), *Hello, Dollyl* (Ensemble), Shoestring's

Young Artist Showcase, Stetson University's Choral Union, and Valerie Gregg's Music Studio. When not onstage she can be found working stage crew or volunteering; and currently she is choreographer for Reading Edge Academy's spring musical *Lion King Kids*.

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MOEET THE CAST



Meagan Haddock (Ensemble) is delighted to be making her Athens Theatre debut! Some of her recent/favorite credits include Les Filles in *Beauty and the Beast* (CFCArts), Fiona in *There Will Be Bears* (Playwrights' Round Table), Florinda in *Into the Woods* (Little Radical Theatrics), Gilmer in *Godspell* (Guaracini Performing Arts Center), and Emily Webb in *Our Town* (Guaracini Performing Arts Center). Meagan makes a living performing at Walt Disney World, Universal

Studios, and the Gaylord Palms Resort. She holds two AFA degrees in Theatre and Theatre Education from Cumberland County College in New Jersey. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her!



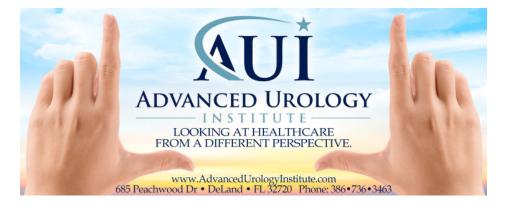
Gabriel Hannans (Marley, Ghost of Christmas Future) is excited to be back at the Athens Theatre after 2 years off stage. He would like to thank God for His continued grace in his life, his family and friends for their support in his pursuit of the arts, and the Athens Theatre for another opportunity to hop on stage.



Nico Henao (Ensemble) is excited to do his very first show with the Athens Theater! He is 16 years old and attends Lake Mary High School where he represents Troupe 3506. Past roles include Chip Tolentino in 25th Annual...Spelling Bee, Gomez Addams in The Addams Family, Troy in High School Musical, Rapunzel's Prince in Into the Woods, and more! Nico wants to thank his family, friends, and directors who have gotten him so far! @nicoh_actor



Ricky Hernandez (Ensemble) is excited to bring this wonderful Christmas tale to life with an incredible cast and crew! He was recently in *Young Frankenstein* at the Ritz Theatre in Sanford and feels incredibly lucky to join this production, too! This will be his second show since being in Florida and couldn't be more thrilled to be joining the historic Athens Theatre family. He'd like to thank the production team for this chance and hopes you enjoy the show!





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MIET THIE CAST



Gracie Holland (Belle, Ensemble) is delighted to be back on the Athens stage! She is a sophomore in college, currently pursuing her BM/BA in Vocal Performance/Theatre Arts with a minor in Education over at Stetson University! Some of her past credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Enchantress), *The Shape of Things* (Jenny), *The Baker's Wife* (Genevieve), and *Matilda, Jr.* (Miss Honey). She would like to thank her professors, teachers, family and friends for their constant love,

guidance, and encouragement. She would also like to thank the wonderful Christmas Carol team for this amazing opportunity to create another beautiful story on the Athens stage. She hopes you enjoy the show, and Happy Holidays! Insta: @graciehollandd



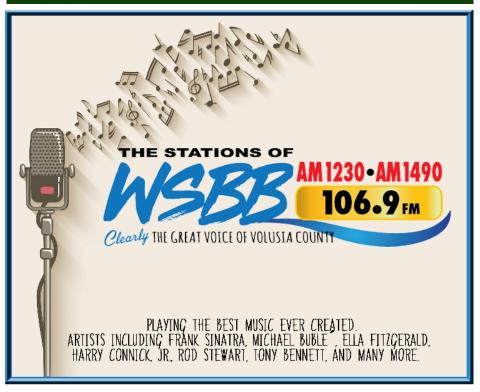
Tad Kincade (Ghost of Christmas Present) is very excited to be making his debut with the Athens Theatre in such a timeless classic show. He has previously been seen as Dr. Fronkensteen in *Young Frankenstein*, Dave in *The Full Monty*, Bob Ewell in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and King Arthur in *Spamalot*. During the day he happily is Bodyguard at Universal Studios to such stars like Marilyn Monroe and Betty Boop. Follow him on instagram @tadkincade. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!







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MOEET THIE CAST



Mia LaBell (Belinda Cratchit, Ensemble) is excited to be back on the Athens Theatre stage. You may have seen her in *Frozen, Jr.* or in *Legally Blonde, Jr.* You may have also seen her in the David C. Hinson Sr. Middle School theatre programs' production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* as Flotsam. Mia is a voice student with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. She would like to thank her friends and family, the cast and crew, and the rest of the stage at the Athens for all their support!



Paul A. Lance (Ensemble) is a graduate from Samford University with a BFA in Musical Theatre/Dance. Paul has performed in numerous productions both regionally and locally. Most Recent Credits include Joe in 9 to 5 (Breakthrough Theatre Company) and Beauty and the Beast (Athens Theatre). Other credits: Golden Gals Live! starring Ginger Minj (Fruitwine Productions), Hello, Dolly! starring Jodi Benson (Encore! Performing Arts), Hairspray (Theatre Winter Haven), The Inheritance Part 1 & 2 (Ensemble Theatre Company), Urinetown

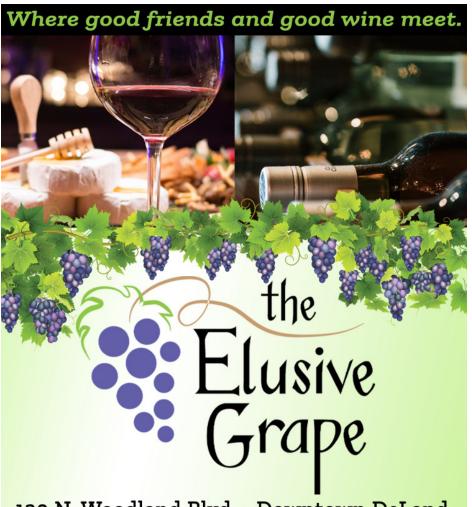
(Theatre South Playhouse), *The Prom* (Theatre South Playhouse), *Young Frankenstein* (Athens Theatre), as well as in the World Premiere of *Serve for the Gawds* at the 2023 Orlando Fringe Festival. In addition to performing, Paul has recently been brought on as a Production Coordinator for Encore! Performing Arts. Paul has a lot of supporters in his life that he would like to thank, including William Hobby (Husband) and Bobby & Cindy Lance (Parents). Instagram/TikTok: Paul.A.Lance



Zoey Natal (Tiny Tim) is thrilled to return to the Athens stage, where she was recently seen as Chip in Beauty and the Beast and Young Anna in Frozen, Jr. Zoey has been an active participant in the Athens Theater Youth Academy (ATYA) since August 2021. Her previous stage credits include Trial of the Wicked Witch (Red Riding Hood), The Rockin' Science Show

(James Watson/Emma Darwin/Student), *A Christmas Chaos* (Mary Cratchit), and *Mary Poppins* (Annie/Toy/Ensemble). Lastly, she would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support. Enjoy the show and God bless us, everyone!





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MIET THIE CAST



Jandrea Novak (Ghost of Christmas Past) is thrilled to be returning to the Athens for another holiday season! After doing a few different productions, she is over the moon to be taking on her favorite role in *A Christmas Carol!* Recent favorite shows include *White Christmas* (Betty), *Jersey Boys* (Mary), and *Your Mom's in My Top 8* (Avril). Jandrea sends all of her thanks and love to her Mom and to her husband, Adam.



Ashley Peters (Mrs. Fezziwig) 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 *Escape to Margaritaville*. Ashley is

excited to spend this holiday season with this incredible cast!



Danny Sanchez (Fezziwig) (He/Him) is an Orlando based performer and works in social media professionally. His recent credits include Bert Healy in *Annie* (Theatre South Playhouse), Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast* (Athens Theatre), Marcus Lycus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Athens Theatre), Male Swing in the *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Theater West End), Teddy/Ensemble in *The Full Monty* (Theater West End), Sheldon in *The Prom* (Theater West End & Titusville Playhouse), Bard #3 in *We Begin In A Tavern* (Orlando

Fringe 2023) and William Barfee in the *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Athens Theatre). Education: UCF BA Theatre Studies and Double Minor(s) in Journalism and Creative Writing. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Steven Smith (Ensemble) is ecstatic to be in his first show on the Athens stage. Some of his favorite show credits are *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *The Prom*, and *Evil Dead the Musical*. He is thrilled to join the talented cast and crew of this production, and he thanks the creative team for all their hard work.

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MOETET THOE CAST



Brayden Volkman (Ensemble) is excited to return to the stage at the Athens Theater. He was most recently seen in Frozen, Jr. (King Agnarr) and Legally Blonde, Jr. (Winthrop). Brayden loves making people laugh on stage doing improvisation and has performed in other shows including Aladdin, Jr. (Prince Abdullah) and Willy Wonka, Jr. (Grandpa Joe). You may have also seen him working behind the scenes in the Athens Theatre main stage productions including A Funny Thing

Happened on the Way to the Forum, Beauty and the Beast, and most recently Dracula. He would like to thank his family, friends and the Athens Theater Youth Academy for all their love and support.



Summer Volo (Martha Cratchit) is thrilled to be performing in her first mainstage production at the Athens Theatre, having previously appeared as Duffy in Annie Kids and the Candyman in Willy Wonka Kids with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. A dedicated sixthgrade homeschooler, Summer discovered her passion for theater at the age of eight. This past spring, she addressed the Volusia County Council in support of preserving funding for cultural arts programs in the area.

Summer remains focused on her aspirations within the musical theater community, continually honing her craft. Outside of theater, she enjoys a variety of activities including singing, acting, swimming, jet skiing, going to the beach, fishing, and spending time with friends. She also enjoys virtual reality and the occasional fun of teasing her twin brother. Summer is the daughter of Jason and Tonya Volo.



Gavin Waid (Bob Cratchit), originally from Lake Wales, obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida in 2013, and his Masters of Music from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 2016. His favorite credits include Il Conte Almaviva in Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro, the Baker in Into the Woods, Tateh in Ragtime, and Amos Hart in CHICAGO. Gavin is thrilled to return to his family at the Athens, especially as part of this beautiful Christmas classic. Gavin

would like to thank – as always – his family and friends, both near and far, for their constant love and unwavering support. www.gavinwaid.com



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MIET THIE CAST



Rachel Yurchick (Ensemble) is a student at the University of Central Florida. Some of her recent credits include *Dance Night* (Theatre UCF), *Summertime* (an interlude) (Theatre UCF), and *Go Like Saints* (Theatre UCF). She is excited to be making her Athens Theatre debut.



Ella Zarrilli (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Athens debut! Ella is a Junior in the BFA Musical Theatre program with a minor in Dance. Her past credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Molly), *Bright Star* (Ensemble), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) and *Bring It On!* (Eva). Offstage, Ella enjoys teaching and assistant directing at BCCT where she did her internship this summer assistant directing and choreographing *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* (@ella.zarrilli



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Gavin WaidBob Cratchit	
Gabriel HannansMarley, Ghost of Christmas Future	
Jandrea NovakGhost of Christmas Past	
Tad KincadeGhost of Christmas Present, U/S Fezziwig	
Zoey NatalTiny Tim	No.
Josh FreemanFred	STATE OF THE PARTY
Danny SanchezFezziwig	
Ashley PetersMrs. Fezziwig, Ensemble	
Warren FrankosOlder Ebeneezer, Ensemble	
Gracie HollandBelle, Ensemble	
Everlee Grooms	
Skylar DowmanMrs. Cratchit, Ensemble	
Blake Leslee Blair	
Aubree Grooms	Ensemble 📈
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~ ACT I ~

Christmas Cheer Humbug A Little Old for That Chains Home (Scrooge) Fezziwig's Party Belle's Farewell The Milk of Human Kindness Home (Cratchit's)

Tiny Tim's Song

~ ACT II ~

Similes Ignorance and Want Christmas Yet To Come Funeral Song **Finale**

~ PRODUCTION TEAM & TECHNICAL CREW ~

Dia	ector	Niffer Clarke
Ch	oreographer	Kim Ball
1	Music Director	
V	Assistant Director/Choreographer	Lauren Stromak
H	Producing Artistic Director	Frank Ramirez
2	Scenic Designer	Michael Brewer
K	Prop Designer/Scenic Builder/TD	Tori Oakes
	Costume Designer	
	Lighting Designer/ATD	Nicholas Hogan
JA	Sound Designer	
	Scenic Charge Artist	Bonnie Sprung
	Production Supervisor/PSM	Diane McLean
	Assistant Stage Manager/Deck Manager	Megan Quiroga
i Von	Fly Manager	Braeden Hunt
M	Costume Shop Manager/Production As	ssociateAmy Uppercue
The state of	Run Crew	Zem Klem, Oliver Fox
	Lightboard Operator	Madison Thompson
	Spotlight Operators	Ella Amir, Jasmine Grooms
	Sound Director	.Kevin Majestic Productions



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MOSET THE BAND



Juan Ceballos (Cello) has been playing the cello for over a decade. His musical career has led him to perform on vast amounts of stages in addition to working alongside countless students to further their own musical journeys. For the past five years Juan has had the privilege of studying under Professor David Bjella at the University of Central Florida; his time at UCF has allowed him to find a true passion for teaching. Some highlights of his teaching career include working with "A Gift for Music" to give Title 1 schools access to the fine arts, being a

cabin counselor and cello instructor for young musicians at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and providing private lessons at The Orlando School of Music. All of these experiences created a burning desire for higher fine arts education, culminating in his part in the co-creation of the Central Florida Cello Association, an organization which provides the UCF cello studio with multiple masterclasses a year given by world class artists and acclaimed educators.

Chris Endsley (Band Director/Piano)*see bio under Meet the Production Team



Laura Firth (Violin 2) began her professional music career in Ohio playing in the Canton Symphony. She discovered a love for playing local musicals and shows while in high school and college which led her to Orlando. In 1981 she was fortunate to secure a teaching position with Orange County Public Schools and was hired for Walt Disney Worlds Candlelight Orchestra. In 1983, she met Disney World's best tuba player, Ed Firth, when he saw she needed a chair and brought her one. That act of kindness led to 39 years of marriage, 2 children and one

grandson. In addition to Disney, Laura has performed at Sea World, Universal Studios and various convention shows and musicals. She has toured Florida with the Mantovani Orchestra and artists such as Liberace, Johnny Mathis, Red Skelton, Andy Williams and Donna Summer, Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Peter Cetera and Rod Stewart. Laura is featured in a series of Monday NightFootball commercials, Party Around the World and Weddings of a Lifetime. After 35 years, Laura retired from OCPS but continues to freelance throughout Florida.

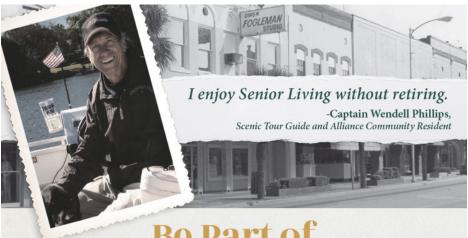


Stacey Flowers (Violin 1) is thrilled to be a part of the orchestra in *A Christmas Carol*. Her recent performances include playing with the Volusia Community Arts, The Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra, as well as various weddings, parties, fundraisers, local churches and as a substitute with the Ocala Symphony. Stacey studied music at Stetson University, and she currently teaches in Volusia County Schools. Outside of theater, Stacey enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, traveling, community involvement and crafting. Stacey thanks

her family and friends for their endless support and is excited to be back on the stage at the Athens Theater.



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, I Love you, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *RENTI* to name a few.



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MIEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Niffer Clarke (Director) is an accomplished Theatre/Voice Instructor and Coach, Director and performer. As a professional actor, she has appeared Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. Her directing and teaching career is just as extensive and wide-ranging. In Milwaukee, where she's currently based, Niffer has directed two World premieres for First Stage, and has directed numerous productions for Marquette University, Cardinal Stritch University, and

Splinter Group. She has also directed productions for the University of Pittsburgh. Niffer has also taught musical theatre at Marquette University and U Pitt. She cofounded the Conservatory of Performing Arts in Florida, where she taught Acting, Musical Theatre, Music Theory and maintained a private voice and coaching studio. In New York, Niffer directed and choreographed productions in both the public and private school arenas. She's taught and directed numerous summer theatre programs in Florida as well as in Milwaukee. She continues to coach privately and teach Acting the Song and audition workshops for high school, university and professional students throughout the country. More fun stuff: Niffer can be heard on the *Adding Machine* original cast recording (PS Classics), *Meet the Robinsons* soundtrack (Walt Disney Pictures), as well as with the legendary alt-rock band They Might Be Giants. Her debut solo album, *Beyond the Ingenue*, is available on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify. So happy to be among Athens Theatre friends!





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MIEET THIE 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 Repertory Theater, Orlando Shakes, The Athens, Theater at St. Luke's,

Daytona State College, and Flagler College. Recent projects include *The SpongeBob Musical* and *True North: A Magical New Holiday Musical* (Orlando Rep), *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Evita* (Orlando Shakes), *Rock of Ages* and *RENT* (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 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.I





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MIEET THIE PRODUCTION TEAM



Lauren Stromak (Assistant Director, Assistant Choreographer) is a choreographer, educator, and performer originally from South Florida with a degree in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida. Her artistic journey has taken her to various stages in Florida, from Stuart to Tampa and throughout Central Florida. Lauren is thrilled to serve as Assistant Choreographer, and for the first time, Assistant Director. Her association with Athens Theatre began in 2021 when she

joined the cast of *Elf* and has been a teaching artist of the Youth Academy since the fall of 2021. Her past choreography credits include *Legally Blonde, JR.* and *Footloose: Youth Edition*, and she served as Assistant Choreographer for *Beauty and The Beast, Frozen, Jr.* and *White Christmas*. She hopes this timeless story brings you some Christmas Cheer. Lauren thanks her family and boyfriend for their unwavering support.



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, Ragtime* and recently,

Disney's Beauty and the Beast.









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MIEET THIE PRODUCTION TEAM



Nicholas Hogan (Lighting Designer, Director of Lighting, ATD) A Florida based Lighting Professional is happy to be working on his third season here at the Athens Theater. Some of his favorite designs at the Athens include *Beauty and the Beast, White Christmas, Jimmy Buffett's Escape from Margaritaville*, and *Misery*. Additionally, Nick works as a designer across Florida, most recently having designed shows in partnership with Stetson Opera and the Barn Theater.



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, Shrekt, 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 seventh 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.



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!

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MIEET THIE PRODUCTION TEAM



Dylaney Sabino (Assistant Director of Sound, Sound Designer) is thrilled to be working on a favorite of her own family's: A Christmas Caroll'This will be Dylaney's third season with the Athens, where she has worked on shows such as Beauty and the Beast, RENT, White Christmas, Noises Off and more as well as fully designed Athen's recent production of Dracula. She is grateful to God and excited to be representing Kevin Majestic Productions in her role, and hopes you enjoy the show!



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 Mial, The Fantasticks!, 9 to 5, Into the Woods, The Producers, Jekyll & Hyde, The Wedding Singer, Oklahomal,

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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MIEET 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.



Megan Quiroga (Assistant Stage Manager) is super excited to be a part of A Christmas Carol! This is her sixth show here at the Athens Theatre. Her stage management credits include The Little Mermaid, A Christmas Carol, and Steel Magnolias at Rising Phoenix Productions. She also was the Assistant Stage Manager for By the Skin of Our Teeth and Rebel without a Cause at Penguin Point Productions, and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Dracula here at the Athens Theatre! Megan has graduated Seminole State College with her A.A. and is excited to continue her technical theatre work in Central

Florida. Megan is so honored to ASM A Christmas Carol and hopes you all have a Happy Holiday! Enjoy the show!



Bonnie Sprung (Scenic Charge Artist) was recently Scenic Charge for *Dracula, Beauty and the Beast, RENT, Forum* and designed/painted *Frozen, Jr.* Bonnie has a BA from Hofstra in Set Design and Graphics, along with her AA from VCC 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 and the JCC Center Players. Stage Manager, Sound

and Graphics for Southern Winds Theatre. She has also designed for GenY Productions, Florida Theatrical Association, The Ensemble Company, SparKyl Entertainment and many more. Some of her nominated designs include *Cabaret, The Flick, Bat Boy the Musical, Torch Song, Clybourne Park, Perfect Arrangement, Three Days of Rain, Hysteria* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf.* Bonnie has over 30yrs. experience in curating, judging art exhibits and thespian festivals. She is on the Seminole Cultural Arts Council Board and was named artist of the year 2024.



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.



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MIET 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) 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.





MIET THIE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Santi Gabino (Director of Marketing and Communications), a native of South Florida, relocated with his husband and two crazy dogs to DeLand in the summer of 2022. With a rich background in venue and 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, 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, develops content for social media, writes press releases, radio scripts, and billboard copy, manages public communications, nurtures business-to-business relationships, and more. Additionally, he contributes a monthly food and lifestyle column to *The West Volusia Beacon*, titled "Central Flavors." Outside of work, Santi finds joy in cooking, painting, and succumbing to the irresistible temptation of buying things he absolutely doesn't need at any yard, garage, or estate sale that crosses his path.



Craig Uppercue (Director of Community Relations) 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!





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MIET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Grace Boynton (Development Director) Grace has a background in both the performing arts and nonprofit development. After graduating from the University of Central Florida in 2020, Grace discovered her passion for nonprofit work and has since made significant contributions to organizations like Planned Parenthood and United Against Poverty, managing yearly budgets of over two million dollars and producing annual fundraising efforts. As the Development Director for the Historic

Athens Theatre, she gets to blend her artistic insights with strategic fundraising expertise to support the theater's mission and ensure its continued success in the community. You may recognize Grace as a performer at the Athens Theatre in shows like *RENT*, 9 to 5 and *The Wedding Singer*.



Amanda Tyler (House Manager) A native Floridian, Ms. Tyler studied film and theatre production at Valencia College. She began working in theatre in 1993 at Seaside Music Theater in Daytona Beach as Wardrobe supervisor, Assistant to the Resident Costume Designer, and Costume Rentals Manager. She finds herself out from behind the curtain for the first time as the Athens House Manager. Amanda joined the Athens family in 2023 and is excited to help this incredible organization continue to

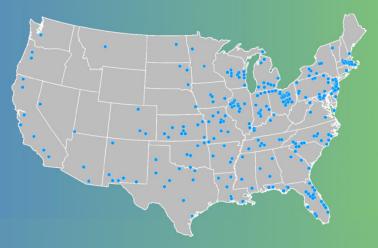
grow and move forward. She takes great pride in the work she does alongside the many dedicated Athens Theatre volunteer ushers while helping to bring amazing art to this historic DeLand stage. She hopes that you enjoy the show!



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MIETT 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.



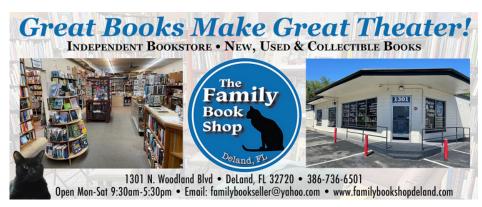
Mike Kitaif (Photographer) Mike has been passionate about photography since high school and is proud to be photographing for the Athens Theatre. Along with photographing other local theaters, he spent eight seasons capturing images for the UCF Marching Knights. When not in the theater, Mike develops software for Cardinal Systems that collects 3D data from photographic and laser sources which is utilized by mapping professionals, civil engineers, and NASA. With a wife and daughter on stage, Mike's love for theater photography blossomed naturally, becoming

a 12-years passion. He's honored to have the best seat in the house during photo sessions and is deeply grateful to the actors, crew, directors and everyone who contributes to make the magic of theater happen.



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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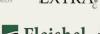
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