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With the opening of the second show of our 2016 season, I reflect on the inspiration and dedication of my family who would raise the bar each year, bringing quality productions to enthusiastic audiences. It was 1950 when our first production, *Taming of the Shrew* was presented in the Barn Theater - with my grandfather producing and my mom playing the role of Bianca. Many shows followed, including a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, where she and my dad met backstage one magical night. Eventually they were married and her greatest productions (as she liked to call them) came to fruition - my sister and I were born! My mom's stage appearances continued, but soon my sister took the spotlight, teaching and taking on many supporting and starring roles. After a leave of absence and a casting career in LA, Robin settled into her role here as Artistic and Acting School Director.

I honor the memory and guidance of my grandparents, my mom, dad, and sister as we continue our 67th season with *Million Dollar Quartet*. Directed by Hunter Foster who starred in the original Broadway production, the show captures the true story that played out one magical night in rock and roll history! We've assembled an incredible cast, some veterans of other *MDQ* productions and a couple of newcomers to the *Million Dollar Quartet* family who effectively bring this true story to life.

Alongside Hunter, we've put together an inspired creative team working together with our technical staff and department heads, who spend countless hours bringing the production elements to the stage, show after show. Our full time administrative, education, and box office staff keep things going year round, and the whole operation is under the leadership and governance of our dedicated Board of Directors. I am proud to be part of such an incredible team.

Finally, I want to acknowledge all of our loyal patrons, supporters, and partners. We are here for you, and without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for allowing us to flourish and grow for over 66 years. Together we can make 2016 our best season yet!

Yours truly,



Paul Allan
Executive Artistic Director



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Visit 100.sjcny.edu for up-to-date information.



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Book by
COLIN ESCOTT and FLOYD MUTRUX

Original Concept and Direction by
FLOYD MUTRUX

Inspired by
ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH, JERRY LEE LEWIS, and CARL PERKINS

Featuring
**JAMES BARRY, CHRIS DAMIANO, DOMINIQUE SCOTT
ARI MCKAY WILFORD, JASON LOUGHLIN, BLIGH VOTH
SAM WEBER, and DAVID SONNEBORN**

Executive Artistic Director
PAUL ALLAN

Production Manager
BRIAN LOESCH

Director of Operations
and Technology
JEFF BELLANTE

Casting Director
MICHAEL BAKER

Company Manager
BETHANY SORTMAN

Director of Development
SCOT ALLAN

Scenic Design
DEREK MCLANE

Costume Design
MOLLY WALLS

Sound Design
DON HANNA

Musical Director
JAMES BARRY

Production Stage Manager
CHRISTOPHER FLORES

Lighting Design
MARCIA MADEIRA

Additional Staging by
JEN CODY

Associate Director
GREG SANTOS

Directed By
HUNTER FOSTER

Scenery, props, and costumes are leased through the courtesy of Ogunquit Playhouse, Ogunquit, Maine. Additional scenic elements by Adam Koch. Originally developed and produced by Relevant Theatricals, John Cossette Productions and Northern Lights, Inc. at the Goodman Theatre, Robert Falls, Artistic Director-Roche Shulfer, Executive Director and transferred to The Apollo Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008. Produced by the Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington, Robb Hunt, Producer – Steve Tompkins, Artistic Director, 2007 and Seaside Music Theater, Daytona Beach, FL, Tippin Davidson, Producer – Lester Malizia, Artistic Director, 2006

Million Dollar Quartet is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10036. (866) 378-9758
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Carl Perkins | JAMES BARRY* |
| Johnny Cash | CHRIS DAMIANO* |
| Jerry Lee Lewis..... | DOMINIQUE SCOTT* |
| Elvis Presley | ARI MCKAY WILFORD* |
| Sam Phillips | JASON LOUGHLIN* |
| Dyanne | BLIGH VOTH* |
| Brother Jay | SAM WEBER* |
| Fluke | DAVID SONNEBORN* |

Production Stage ManagerCHRISTOPHER FLORES*

Additional guitars courtesy of Family Melody Center—Patchogue, NY



*Actors employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Director/Choreographer is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

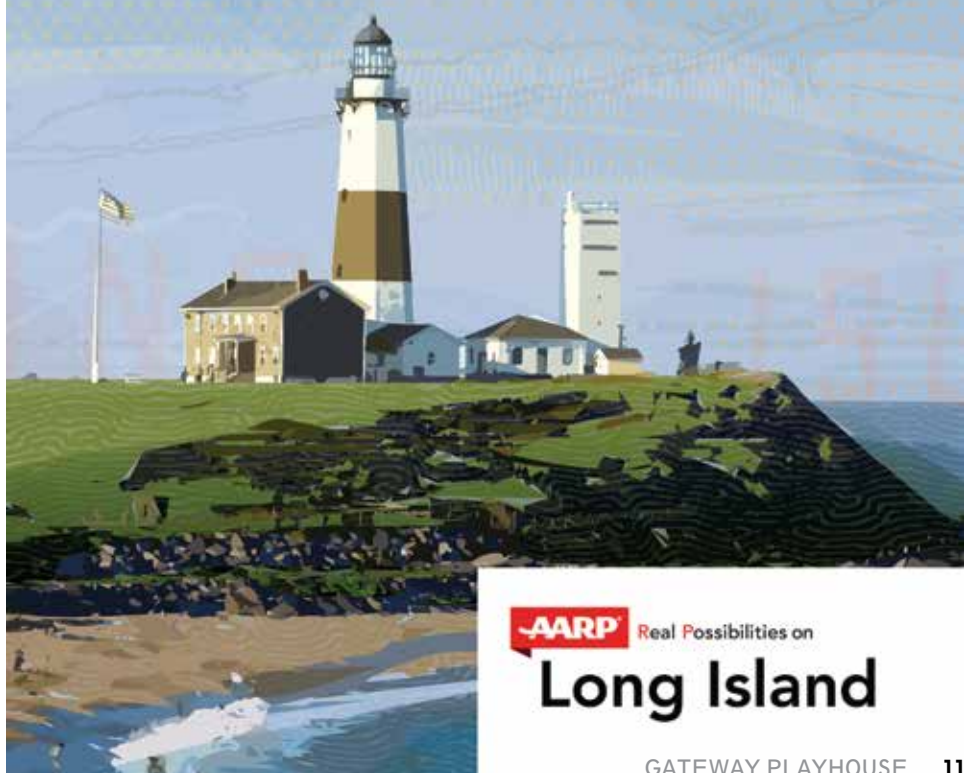
WARNING: The photographing or sound recording of any performance is strictly prohibited.

FIRE NOTICE: The exit indicated by a red light and sign nearest to the seat you occupy, is the shortest route to the outside. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do NOT run. WALK to that Exit. However, under normal circumstances, when leaving the Theatre, use the center rear exits. SMOKING is prohibited in the BUILDING, as required by the Suffolk County NO SMOKING Ordinance. Smoking in any area designated "No Smoking" renders the offenders subject to a fine, or imprisonment, or both.



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SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

TIME: DECEMBER 4, 1956

PLACE: SUN RECORDS, MEMPHIS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Blue Suede Shoes..... | Carl, Johnny, Jerry Lee, Elvis |
| Real Wild Child | Jerry Lee |
| Matchbox..... | Carl |
| Who Do You Love | Carl |
| Folsom Prison Blues | Johnny |
| Fever | Dyanne |
| Memories Are Made of This..... | Carl, Johnny, Jerry Lee, Elvis |
| That's Alright Mama | Elvis |
| Brown Eyed Handsome Man | Jerry Lee, Carl |
| Down By the Riverside | Johnny, Jerry Lee, Elvis, Carl |
| Sixteen Tons..... | Johnny |
| My Babe | Carl, Johnny |
| Blue Suede Shoes (Reprise)..... | Elvis, Jerry Lee, Carl, Johnny |
| Long Tall Sally | Elvis |
| Peace in the Valley | Dyanne, Jerry Lee, Carl, Elvis, Johnny |
| I Walk the Line..... | Johnny |
| I Hear You Knockin' | Dyanne |
| Let's Have a Party | Carl, Elvis, Jerry Lee, Johnny, Dyanne |
| Great Balls of Fire | Jerry Lee |
| Down By the Riverside (Reprise)..... | Johnny, Jerry Lee, Carl, Elvis |
| Hound Dog..... | Elvis |
| Ghost Riders in the Sky..... | Johnny, Dyanne, Carl, Elvis |
| See You Later Alligator | Carl |
| Whole Lotta Shakin' | Jerry Lee, Carl, Johnny, Elvis |

THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Carmela Aiosa, Missy Atchue, Violet Bezler, Camille Brideson, Mary Lou Cohalan, Nancy Connolly, Millie D'Agostino, Pat Ely, Betty Entress, Kristina Farmer, Linda Gaimaro, Joyce Gambina, Kaitlyn Gambina, Linda Gomez, Linda Good, Mary Hubner, Barbara Keup, Bob Koenig, Mary Lanier, Jo Livote, Beatrice Marelli, Andrea McCabe, Connie Merced, Sue Nemet, Judy Onorato, Peter Pernice, Bea Peters, Linda Randolph, Sandy Reifel, Pat Satalone, Harold Schiffman, Cathy Steinkraus, Nancy Wierzbowski, Mary Wirth, and Joyce Wowak.



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JAMES BARRY (*Carl Perkins*/*Musical Director*) is proud to make his Gateway debut! Broadway: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*; 1st Nat'l Tour: *Million Dollar Quartet*; Off

B'way & NYC: *These Paper Bullets* (The Atlantic), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (The Public), *Sive* (Irish Rep), *Here's Hoover* (Les Freres Corbusier @ Abrons Arts Center); Regional: *Pump Boys & Dinettes* (Paper Mill), *These Paper Bullets* (Geffen Playhouse & Yale Rep), *Buddy Holly Story* (North Carolina Theatre), *Next To Normal* (The Arden), *A Thousand Clowns*, *The Caretaker*, *The Who's Tommy* (Berkshire Theatre Group), *Wittenberg, Arms On Fire* (Chester Theatre Co.); TV: *Difficult People*. James' album "Embrace Yourself Tonight" is available on iTunes, Spotify & on pink vinyl LP through etsy. @jamesbarrystuff. Love to Tara & Sam! ★



CHRIS DAMIANO (*Johnny Cash*) is thrilled to be a part of this production. Damiano was playing Johnny Cash in *Chicago's Million Dollar Quartet* from 2011-2015. Other credits:

Pump Boys (Jackson) Georgia Ensemble Theatre, *Sanders' Family Christmas* (Burl) Atlanta Lyric Theatre, *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown* (Dad) Aurora Theatre, and *Almost Heaven, John Denver's America*, Georgia Ensemble Theatre. When not on stage or working with his wife, Chris enjoys gardening. Love to Laura. ★



JASON LOUGHLIN (*Sam Phillips*) is thrilled to be making his Gateway debut with *Million Dollar Quartet*. A native of North Carolina, he was recently seen in the Broadway productions of

The Audience, with Helen Mirren and *Machinal*, with Rebecca Hall. Thanks to Hunter, Paul and the wonderful people of this production for the opportunity to make this story come to life every night. This performance is dedicated to Sandra. ★



DOMINIQUE SCOTT (*Jerry Lee Lewis*) National Tour: *Rock of Ages* (Drew) Regional: *Miss Saigon* (Chris), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), *Ragtime* (Younger Brother). Graduate of

NWSA and Syracuse University. For music, tour dates, and all kinds of fun "DOM" stuff, check out domscott.com! Let's be friends on Facebook (/domscottrocks) and Twitter (@domscottrocks)! A big thank you to Hunter, Jen and Greg, the killer cast, Paul, Michael, the Price Group, Shannon and the Staz Clan. Let's Boogie! ★



DAVID SONNEBORN (*Fluke*) is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and thrilled to be making his Gateway Playhouse debut. He is a longtime NYC musician, and is an original cast member

of *The Million Dollar Quartet* National Tour, as well as the first regional production of *MDQ* at the Ogunquit Playhouse. David has performed at the New York Musical Theatre Festival as well as touring nationally in *Always*, *Patsy Cline*, and *Honky Tonk Angels*. He studied drums and percussion at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, and attended Ohio State University. Specializing in western swing and classic country music, David currently plays drums or bass in "Western Caravan," "The San AnTones," "Gunsmoke," "The Mary Lamont Band," and "Teri Joyce and the Tag-alongs." Love to wife Becky, and daughter Audrey. ★

NOTICE ABOUT PARKING: We strongly encourage our patrons to always park on Gateway grounds. Parking is not allowed on Maplewood Drive north of the back Gateway exit. Parking is also prohibited on the east side of the street (Gateway side). Observe the No Parking signs. The Village of Bellport has advised us that cars parked in these areas will be ticketed. Please park on the west side of the street, opposite the Gateway fence, between the back exit and South Country Road. We appreciate your cooperation in making your visit to Gateway as pleasant as possible.



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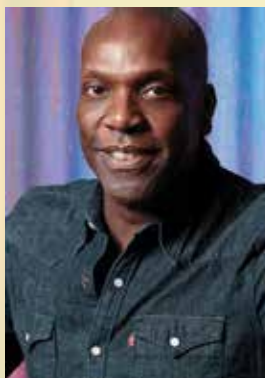
Bringing Broadway Back Home...

By: Rachel Colson

Up next in our impressive season, we are ready to get Gateway Playhouse jumpin' in this Tony-Award winning 1930s musical revue of *Ain't Misbehavin'*! Based on the infectious music of Fats Waller, this musical provides an evening of songs that help to reflect the moods of the era, complete with memorable songs including, "Squeeze Me," "Jitterbug Waltz," "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," and, of course, the title song, "Ain't Misbehavin'."

In this show, we are excited to announce the return of two Gateway alumni, Kingsley Leggs and Gerry McIntyre! Kingsley Leggs was seen on stage at Gateway in the productions of *Miss Saigon* (2003), *The Full Monty* (2005), and *Dreamgirls* (2007). Gerry McIntyre choreographed the highly entertaining *9 to 5* (2012), in which Sally Struthers made her Gateway debut!

Apart from making appearances at Gateway and various other regional theatres across the country, both Mr. Leggs and Mr. McIntyre have enjoyed successes on and off-Broadway.



Gerry McIntyre

As a performer, Gerry McIntyre was on Broadway in *Once on this Island* (original cast), *Anything Goes* (with Patti LuPone), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (with Michael Damien), and *A Christmas Carol* (with Tim Curry), to name a few. He has also been in many prominent television shows, including *Boardwalk Empire*, *Law and Order*, and *The Nanny*, as well as appearing in the film version of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with Donny Osmond and Joan Collins. In addition to performing, Mr. McIntyre is a highly sought-after director and choreographer, making appearances at prominent off-Broadway and regional theatres including Berkshire Theatre Festival, Westport Playhouse, Lions Theatre, La Mirada Theatre, Actors Theatre, and the Pasadena Playhouse.

Kingsley Leggs was on Broadway in *Sister Act*, *The Color Purple*, and *Miss Saigon*. National Tours include *Porgy and Bess*, *Sister Act*, *Ragtime*, *Miss Saigon*, *It Ain't Nothing But the Blues*, and *Forbidden Hollywood*. Mr. Leggs is coming to us fresh from Goodspeed's reimagined *Anything Goes*, where he portrayed the role of Elisha Whitney. In addition to Goodspeed, Mr. Leggs has traveled to various regional theatres across the country including Northshore, South Bay CLO, Fulton, and the Denver Center.

We are excited to have both Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Leggs returning to our theatre to continue our tradition of bringing the very best of Broadway to you, our patrons! Please continue to join us for our upcoming performances, featuring star-studded casts and Long Island's best live theatre!



Kingsley Leggs

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BLIGH VOTH (*Dyanne*) recently played the role of Dyanne in *Million Dollar Quartet* at Ogunquit Playhouse and as a temporary cover on the Norwegian Escape International

Tour. NYC: Musical Theatre Factory: *Pericles* (musical reading). Primary Stages: *Nineteen* (workshop). Atlantic Theater Company: *The Searchers* (workshop). REGIONAL: Signature Theatre: *Gone Country*; *Signature Sings 2005-2009*, *Ladies Choice*. Ford's Theatre: *The Civil War*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Parade*. Washington Stage Guild: *Red Herring*. Studio Theatre: *Jerry Springer The Opera*, *Reefer Madness*; Kennedy Center Millennium Stage: *Blonde Ambish*. Totem Pole Playhouse: *Steel Magnolias*. Lyric Theater Oklahoma: *Big River*. EDUCATION: The Boston Conservatory. Bligh hosts a podcast, "Avocados Are For Rich People" available on iTunes. www.blighvoth.com ★



SAM WEBER (*Brother Jay*) is thrilled to be coming back to Gateway! A recent Jersey transplant, he is proud to be doing this show as a new Daddy to a breath-taking baby

girl! National Tours: *Buddy Holly Story* (Joe B.), Regional Favs: *Pump Boys* (Eddie, Paper Mill), *Buddy* (Gateway, MUNY, Casa Manana, Ogunquit), *MDQ* (Brother Jay, Ogunquit) This one if for my two ladies, Brittany and Charlotte Jane, the reason I'm the luckiest man on earth. Enjoy! ★



ARI MCKAY WILFORD (*Elvis Presley*) is super excited to be making his Gateway Debut in this incredible show! Broadway: *Once*. TV/Film: "Gotham", "Vinyl", *Solitary*. Many thanks

to Hunter, Greg, Jen and Gateway for the opportunity to play a legend. Love to mom and dad. Rock and roll! @arimckay ★

WHO'S WHO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14...

HUNTER FOSTER (*Director*) is an Artistic Associate at the Bucks County Playhouse where he has directed, *Company*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *National Pastime*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Summer of '42*, *The Buddy Holly Story* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Other directing credits include: *Grease* (North Carolina Theatre), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *Spamalot* (Casa Manana), *My Fair Lady and Cabaret* (Cape Playhouse). As a book writer he has written the books to the musicals, *Jasper in Deadland*, which played at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle in Spring 2015 following its world premiere at Prospect Theater Company in NYC. Hunter also wrote the book to the Off-Broadway musical, *Summer of '42* which opened at the Variety Arts Theatre in New York City and was nominated for an Outer Critic Award for best new Off-Broadway musical. Other recent book writing credits include *The Circus in Winter* (Goodspeed Musicals), *Clyde and Bonnie: A Folktale* (New York Musical Theatre Festival, Aurora Theatre), and *The Hollow* (Signature Theatre). As an actor, he has appeared on Broadway in *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Producers*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Tony nomination), *Urinetown*, *Les Miserables*, *Footloose*, *Grease*, *King David*. Hunter is a graduate of the University of Michigan (BFA in theatre, 1992). ★

GREG SANTOS (*Associate Director*) NYC: Charles Busch's *Cleopatra*, *Judith of Bethulia*, *Times Square Angel* (TNC), *The Tribute Artist* (Primary Stages), and *The Divine Sister* (Daryl Roth/Soho Playhouse). *The Visit - One Night on Broadway*, starring Chita Rivera and Mr. Magoo's *Christmas Carol* (Actors Fund), *Carried Away: Being Comden & Green* and *Here's To The Girls: Hollywood's Leading Ladies* (92nd St Y), *Hello Again* (Transport Group). Also, *Tenderloin*, *The Mad Show*, *Harold & Maude* and *I Love My Wife* (York Theater), *The Rocky Horror Show* and *National Pastime* (Bucks

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JENNIFER CODY (*Additional Staging*) On Broadway: *A Christmas Story*, *Shrek*, *Pajama Game*, *Taboo*, *Urinetown*, *No No Nanette* (Encores), *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Actor's Fund), *Seussical the Musical*, *Mr. Magoo's Christmas* (Actor's Fund), *Grease*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cats*. Jennifer has spent the last few years lending her voice to movie and TV characters and commercials. She won the Annie Award (the voice-over Oscar for Best Actor in an Animated Motion Picture Feature Film) for creating the voice of Charlotte La Boeuff in Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*. She has choreographed the off-Broadway shows *Debbie Does Dallas*, (Jane St Theatre), *Prodigal* (York Theatre) and *Henry and Mudge* (theatreworks) as well as directed regionally and off-Broadway. ★

CHRISTOPHER FLORES (*Production Stage Manager*) New York credits include Charles Busch's *Cleopatra* (TNC), *Sleep* (Japan Society), *A Christmas Carol* (Titan Theater Company), *On the Air and Cheer Wars* (York Theatre), *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Estuary: A Mother/Artist Story* (The Public), *3 Kinds of Exile* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Romeo and Juliet* and *ValueVille*. Regional credits include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Company*, *National Pastime*, *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *Summer of '42*, *After a Hundred Years*, *9 Parts of Desire* and *Pen*. National tours include *Mamma Mia!* and *Encore*. ★

MARCIA MADEIRA (*Lighting Designer*) is thrilled to be back at Gateway. Her favorite designs here include *Nice Work*, *42nd Street*, *Singing in the Rain*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *West Side Story*, *Sugar*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *On The Town*, *Swing* and *The Fantastics*. Most recently she won



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the Shellie Award for *Les Miserables*, and last year for *Joseph...Dreamcoat* at the Contra Costa Musical Theatre. She has designed ice shows for all eleven RCCL cruise ships with rinks, including the new Harmony of the Seas. Previously Ms. Madeira received a Tony nomination and won The Drama Desk Award for the original *NINE* directed by Tommy Tune with Raul Julia. Other Broadway designs include *My One and Only* with Tommy Tune and Twiggy; and *The Music Man* with Dick van Dyke, directed and choreographed by Michael Kidd. (www.mtmdesigns.org) ★

DON HANNA (*Sound Designer*) is happy to be returning to Gateway for the 2016 Summer season. Other highlighted regional credits include: *Billy Elliot* (North Shore Music Theatre, Sound Design), *Rock Of Ages* Regional Premier (Gateway Playhouse, Sound Design), *The Adams Family* Regional Premier (Gateway Playhouse, Sound Design), *Young Frankenstein* Regional Premier (Gateway Playhouse and Ogunquit Playhouse, Sound Design) Touring Credits Include: *Million Dollar Quartet* 2016 National Tour (Head Audio), *Smokey Joe's Cafe 20th Anniversary Tour* (Head Audio). Thank you to Paul for the opportunity to come back for another summer as the Sound Designer after starting as an Intern 11 years ago. Also, a huge thank you to my friends, family, and Bethany for their love and continual support. ★

BILL STONEHOUSE (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) is a lighting designer based in New York City, though his work has found him all over the world designing national tours, opera, dance, and special events. He's worked as an assistant/associate designer Off-Broadway and in Regional Theatre and Opera. In addition to his design work, he's worked as a Production Manager for a major event company and served as the Director of Stage Lighting for the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in New York City. ★



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THE OFFICIAL STORY ACCORDING TO THE SUN RECORD COMPANY:

The Million Dollar Quartet is the name given to recordings made on Tuesday December 4, 1956 in the Sun Record Studios in Memphis, Tennessee. The recordings were of an impromptu jam session between Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash. The jam session seems to have happened by pure chance. Perkins, who by this time had already met success with “Blue Suede Shoes,” had come into the studios that day, accompanied by his brothers Clayton and Jay and by drummer W.S. Holland, their aim being to cut some new material, including a revamped version of an old blues song, “Matchbox.” Sam Phillips, the owner of Sun Records, who wished to try to fatten this sparse rockabilly instrumentation, had brought in his latest acquisition, singer and piano man extraordinaire, Jerry Lee Lewis, still unknown outside Memphis, to play the piano on the Perkins session.

Sometime in the early afternoon, Elvis Presley, a former Sun artist himself, but now at RCA, dropped in to pay a casual visit accompanied by a girlfriend, Marilyn Evans. He was, at the time, the biggest name in show business, having hit the top of the singles charts five times, and topping the album charts twice in the preceding

12 month period. Less than four months earlier, he had appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show, pulling an unheard-of 83% of the television audience, which was estimated at 55 million, the largest in history, up to that time. After chatting with Phillips in the control room, Presley listened to the playback of the Perkins’ session, which he pronounced to be good. Then he went into the studio and some time later the jam session began. Phillips left the tapes running in order to “capture the moment” as a souvenir and for posterity. At some point during the session, Sun artist Johnny Cash, who had also enjoyed a few hits on the country charts, popped in (Cash noted in his autobiography Cash that it was he who was the first to arrive at Sun Studio that day). As Jerry Lee pounded away on the piano, Elvis and his girlfriend at some point slipped out. Cash claims in Cash that “no one wanted to follow Jerry Lee, not even Elvis”.

The following day, an article, written by Memphis newspaperman Bob Johnson about the session, was published in the Memphis Press-Scimitar under the title, “Million Dollar Quartet.” The article contained the now well known photograph of Elvis Presley seated at the piano surrounded by Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash. ★



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FOSTERING THE ARTS: *An Interview with Director Hunter Foster*

By: Rachel Colson



It's no wonder that the name "Hunter Foster" is synonymous with success, and is a household name for many theatre fans and Broadway-goers. Hunter Foster began his Broadway career as an ensemble member and understudy for such shows as *Les Miserables*, *Grease*, and *Footloose*, but then

was cast in his breakthrough role of Bobby Strong in the smash-hit satirical musical comedy *Urinetown*. After his breakthrough, Mr. Foster's career as a leading man on Broadway was launched. He took on the roles of Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*, for which he was nominated for a Tony for Best Actor in a Musical), Sam Phillips (*Million Dollar Quartet*), Benny (*Hands on a Hardbody*), and Bud (*The Bridges of Madison County*). In addition to his success on Broadway, Mr. Foster has also traveled the country to various prominent regional theatres. Mr. Foster's career and talent expand beyond performing, as he is a highly sought-after director, playwright and librettist, (for complete bio, please see page 20 of the Playbill). We are ecstatic to have him joining us at Gateway to direct *Million Dollar Quartet*, and were fortunate enough to be able to ask him some of our audience's burning questions.

RC: What was your early inspiration(s) for becoming an actor?

HF: I was a big Indiana Jones fan, and all the early Spielberg movies. I wanted to be Harrison Ford or Richard Dreyfuss.

RC: The dream of many actors in NYC is to be on Broadway. What was it like to go from dreaming about Broadway to being on Broadway?

HF: Broadway wasn't necessarily a dream of mine as a kid. I was more into movies, but once I learned about theater, I realized how special being on Broadway was. And being able to say you are a Broadway actor is a title that carries so much prestige and honor. No one should take it for granted.

RC: What has been your favorite role thus far (in life or onstage)?

HF: *Urinetown* will always be my favorite experience. It was a great cast, and a joy to perform.

RC: What was it like to receive your first Tony nomination? What did you think and how did you feel?

HF: I remember at the luncheon and we were told we were in a select group as Tony nominees, and it hit me then how special it is to be recognized for your work.

RC: What was it like to be the first person to play the role of Sam Phillips? And did you do any special research to prepare yourself for the role?

HF: Before we started, I went to Sun Studios in Memphis because I wanted to understand what Sun Studios was all about. I also did a lot of research on the quartet themselves.

RC: What was it like to transition from playing the role of Sam Phillips in *Million Dollar Quartet* to directing the show?

HF: I didn't think it was too difficult. I had a pretty good understanding of the show and what I wanted to do with it. You get great musicians, and then sing that material, and the audience eats it up.

RC: *Million Dollar Quartet* is based on a true story. How does this effect/affect the way you direct the show and talk to the actors about their characters?

HF: I've asked them not to do imitations, necessarily, but (to embody) the essence of these men. Audiences will believe in the world you create, so we are trying to create a world where our versions of these characters live.

RC: How do you keep *Million Dollar Quartet* fresh after being a part of it for so long?

HF: You have to keep reminding yourself to tell the story. There's a great story being told in this show and if you get away from it, you aren't doing your job.

RC: If you could direct or star in any production, what would it be and why?

HF: I want to direct *Chess*. It's been a favorite of mine for a long time and I have an idea that I would love to try with it.

RC: In The Gateway: School for the Performing Arts, we have many students who are aspiring performing artists, many of whom look up to and idolize Broadway veterans like yourself. What advice would you give to them?

HF: Learn who you are and what you do best. Don't try to be someone else. Your individuality is what will stand out. And be kind to each other. This business is hard enough. Be kind to all of those around you. A great director once told me to always make the other person more important than yourself, and if everyone does that, then we are all working together.



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Thank you to all of those who have donated to the "Mil and Nancy Kana Patio Fund Drive" and congratulations on having a seat named in recognition of your donation. This campaign is ongoing and will have an exciting unveiling when we return to Bellport from Patchogue in August. We invite any and all to join our family and help make The Gateway more beautiful! Inquire at the box office or by contacting Scot at 631-286-7027 or at Scot@TheGateway.org

The Performing Arts Center of Suffolk County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization – all donations are 100% tax-deductible. Thank you for your contribution to the future of the arts!

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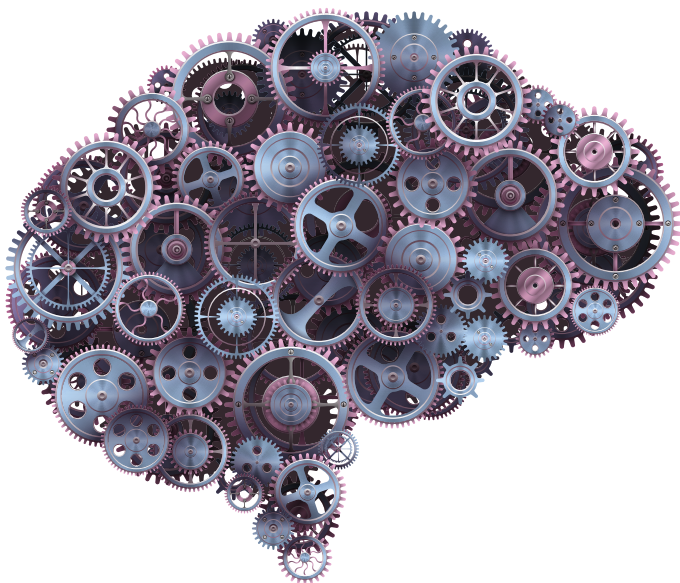
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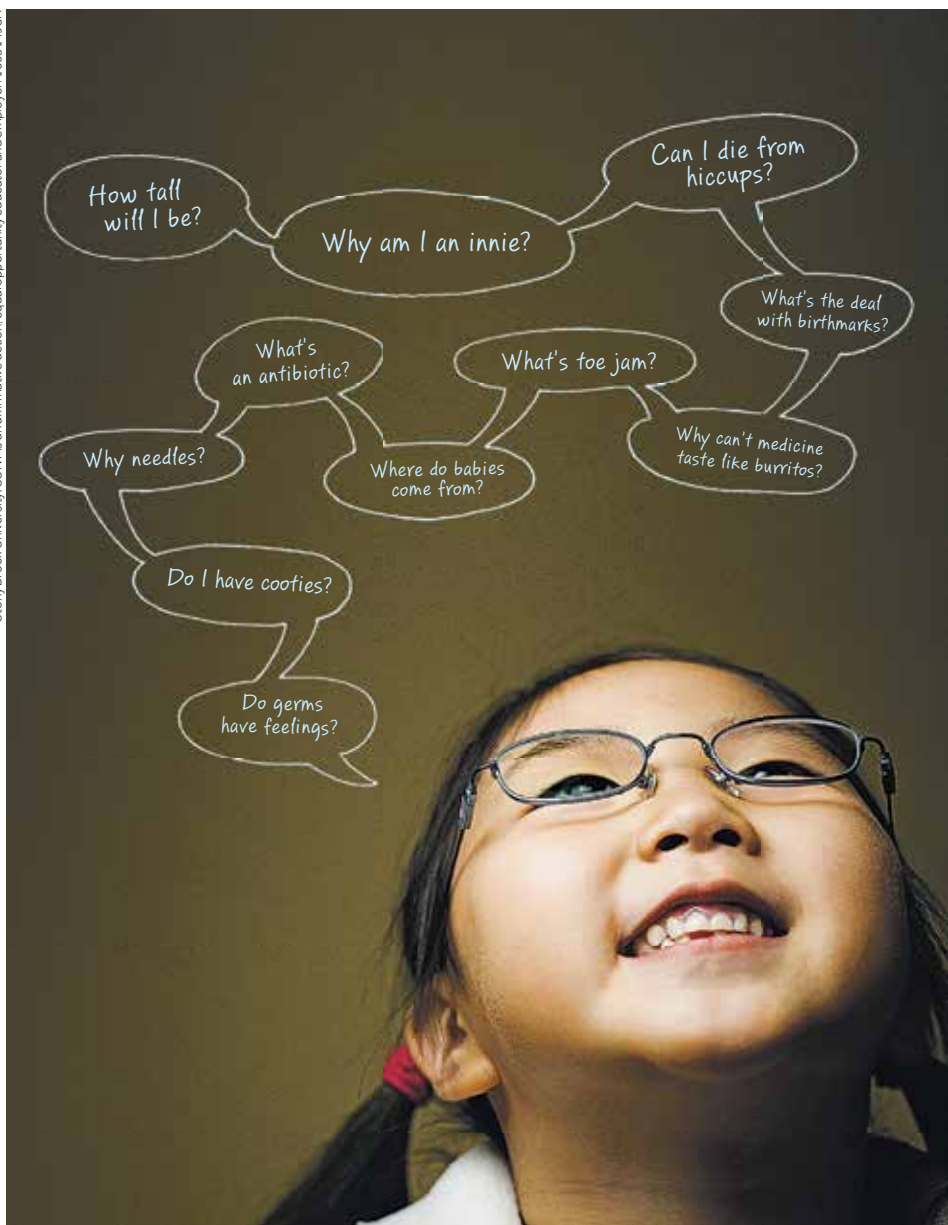
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