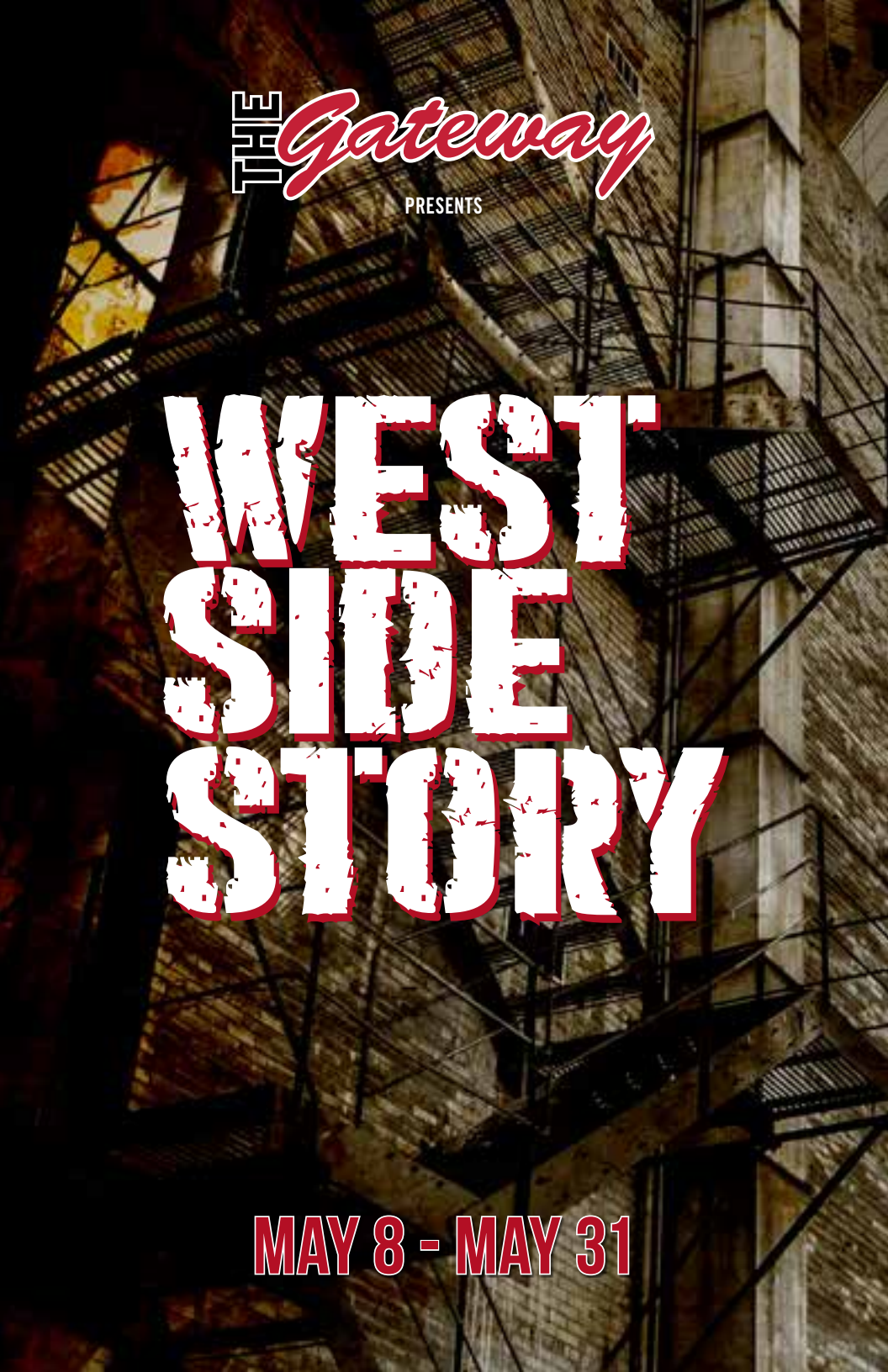


The background of the poster is a photograph of a multi-story brick building. Several black metal fire escapes are attached to the exterior of the building, crisscrossing the frame. The lighting is somewhat dim, giving it a gritty, urban feel.

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A nighttime photograph of a city street, likely in New York City, featuring scaffolding and a bench in the foreground. The scene is dimly lit with warm streetlights and cool blue tones from the night sky.

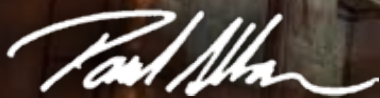
THE Gateway

We open the 2026-27 season with *West Side Story*, two people trying to love each other across a city determined to keep them apart. The Temptations in *Ain't Too Proud* show us what five men can build together, and what brotherhood actually demands when fame gets involved. *Come From Away* puts 7,000 stranded strangers in a small Newfoundland town and asks what happens when ordinary people open their doors without thinking twice. *Million Dollar Quartet* Christmas closes the calendar year the way every year should end, in a room full of people, music you know by heart, and no one else you'd rather be with. *Funny Girl* gives us Fanny Brice, who refused to make herself smaller so the world could be more comfortable. Fanny made the world expand to fit her instead. And the season closes with *Harry Chapin*, a man who wanted to change the world, and knew exactly who he was changing it for.

My hope is that somewhere in this season, you see yourself up there, and leave feeling a little less alone in whatever you're carrying. Thank you for being in the room with us. It means everything.

Here's to a remarkable year.

Paul Allan

A stylized, handwritten signature of Paul Allan in white ink.

Executive Artistic Director
The Gateway, Performing Arts Center of Suffolk County

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DUSTIN LAWSON

Associate Director/Choreographer
ASHLEY KLINGER

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ANDREW HAILE AUSTIN

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BRYAN ERNESTO MENJIVAR

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THE JETS

Riff, the leader ASHTON LAMBERT*
 Tony, his friend JACKSON HURT*
 Action PJ PALMER
 A-Rab JACK MINTZ
 Baby John KEATON BARTZ
 Big Deal JACK DAVID MULLEN
 Diesel GABRIEL HOBBS
 Anybods ABIGAIL GRAHAM
 Graziella ALYSIA VASTARDIS
 Velma OLIVIA SCHUH
 Minnie, Margarita ANGELINA DIDEA
 Pauline KEEGHAN LAVERY

THE SHARKS

Bernardo, the leader CARLOS JIMENEZ*
 Maria, his sister SABINA COLLAZO*
 Anita, his girl MEGAN ELYSE FULMER*
 Chino, his friend FRANCO BIANCHI*
 Pepe CURTIS J FAULKNER*
 Indio RODOLFO SANTAMARINA
 Juanito BRYAN ERNESTO MENJIVAR*
 Toro BRANDON MORENO
 Rosalia SAMARA DECASTRO
 Consuelo MANUELA "MANGO" AGUDELO
 Estrella LILY MENDOZA
 Francisca ALEXIS PAPALEO

THE ADULTS

Doc BILL CARMICHAEL*
 Lieutenant Schrank JESSE SWIMM*
 Officer Krupke MANNY ERIAS
 Glad Hand DUSTIN LAWSON

Associate Director/Choreographer, Intimacy Director ASHLEY KLINGER*
 Associate Choreographer/Dance Captain BRYAN ERNESTO MENJIVAR*
 Production Stage Manager BETHANY SORTMAN*
 Assistant Stage Managers BRENDAN M CULLEN*, REBECCA KLEEMAN

UNDERSTUDIES

Tony JACK MINTZ
 Riff PJ PALMER
 Bernardo CURTIS J FAULKNER*
 Maria SAMARA DECASTRO
 Anita ALEXIS PAPALEO
 Doc JESSE SWIMM*
 Chino RODOLFO SANTAMARINA
 Action JACK DAVID MULLEN
 Anybods ANGELINA DIDEA
 Lt. Schrank, Glad Hand, Krupke MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER*

ORCHESTRA

Music Director, Keys 1 ANDREW HAILE AUSTIN
 Associate Music Director, Keys 2 JAKE TURSKI
 Trumpet RON FOX
 Trombone THOMAS BRADBARD
 Reeds 1 JOEL LEVY, BOB DALPIAZ
 Reeds 2 LO WOOD
 Bass KAREN GELLERT, TEDDY MOTZ
 Drums ELLIS HOLMES



*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.



The Musicians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians.

SYNOPSIS OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

The action takes place on the West Side of New York City during the last days of summer.

ACT I

SCENE 1: THE NEIGHBORHOOD - 5:00 PM

Prologue The Jets, The Sharks
Jet Song Riff and The Jets

SCENE 2: THE YARD - 5:30 PM

Something's Coming Tony

SCENE 3: BRIDAL SHOP - 6:00 PM

SCENE 4: DANCE HALL - 10:00 PM

Dance at the Gym The Jets, The Sharks
Maria Tony

SCENE 5: ALLEYWAY - 11:00 PM

Tonight Tony, Maria
America Anita, Rosalia, Francisca, Estrella, Consuelo, Margarita

SCENE 6: DRUGSTORE - MIDNIGHT

Cool Riff and The Jets

THE NEXT DAY

SCENE 7: BRIDAL SHOP - 5:30 PM

One Hand, One Heart Tony, Maria

SCENE 8: THE NEIGHBORHOOD - 6:00 TO 9:00 PM

Tonight Quintet Tony, Maria, Anita, Riff, The Jets, The Sharks

SCENE 9: UNDER THE HIGHWAY - 9:00 PM

The Rumble The Jets, The Sharks

INTERMISSION

ACT II

SCENE 1: A BEDROOM - 9:15 PM

I Feel Pretty Maria, Consuelo, Rosalia, Francisca, Estrella
Somewhere Ballet Tony, Maria, The Jets, The Sharks
Somewhere Vocalist Rosalia

SCENE 2: A BACK ALLEY - 10:00 PM

Gee, Officer Krupke Action and The Jets

SCENE 3: THE BEDROOM - 11:30 PM

A Boy Like That/I Have a Love Anita, Maria

SCENE 4: DRUGSTORE - 11:40 PM

SCENE 5: UNDER THE HIGHWAY - MIDNIGHT

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION 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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WHO'S WHO



MANUELA "MANGO" AGUDELO

(*Consuelo*) is a Colombian immigrant raised in Queens. Mango is a first-generation graduate who designed her own majors in Social Justice and Performance Art at CUNY BA School for Unique and Interdisciplinary

Studies. Mango's creative practice has always been interwoven with their passion for serving the community. They have choreographed and directed an original dance theater production, *Legado Dorado*, honoring their matrilineal ancestry. Mango has danced in shoes and on rollerskates for various productions such as: *Xanadu* at Serenbe Art Farm, *In the Heights* at The Gateway and WPPAC, *Little House on the Ferry* Immersive at the Duplex NYC, and *Monica Bill Barnes and Co* at Fall for Dance at City Center. You can follow Mangos adventures @manuela.Mango_



KEATON BARTZ (*Baby John*) grew up in Wisconsin and now's a New Yorker, where he is pursuing a professional career in dance and theatre. His credits include *9 to 5: The Musical* and *Company*. He has also toured internationally with the nonprofit

performing arts organization Heart Global, teaching and performing for communities around the world. Keaton is thrilled to be part of *West Side Story* as Baby John and is deeply grateful for the continued support of his family, friends, and mentors. IG: @keatonbartz



FRANCO BIANCHI* (*Chino*) (he/him) is so thrilled to be back at The Gateway! Based in NYC but born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Franco's trained to be a triple threat! Graduated in Musical Theater from AMDA in NY/LA and proud coachee of

Mackenzie Bykowski, associate of Mike Ruckle's Studio. Favorite Credits: Buddy "Keno" Walsh in *The Full Monty* (The Gateway), Carlos in *Magic School Bus* (National Tour), Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Enrique Carreras Theater), Principal Dancer in *Relations* (Affekt Dance Company) and Anthony Hope in *Sondheim in Concert* (Usina del Arte, Argentina). Thanks to my family, friends and my incredible team Jim, Bridget and Eaton! Represented by Bloc NYC @francobianchi



BILL CARMICHAEL* (*Doc*) is excited to return to The Gateway after making his debut in Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville*. Broadway credits include: *Mamma Mia* (original cast), *Les Miserable*, *Cats*, and *Peter Pan*. Bill was in the Original Production of

Forbidden Broadway and can be heard on the Original Cast Recording. In LA, he was in the Original US Premiere of *Ragtime*, *Forever Plaid*, and *Sweeney Todd*. First National Tours: *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *City of Angels*, and *Ragtime*. Theaters worked in include Mark Taper Forum, Goodspeed Opera House, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, NYSF, and St. Michael's Playhouse in Vermont where he has appeared in dozens of productions. Bill lives in Waltham, VT with his wife, Sue.



SABINA COLLAZO* (*Maria*) is thrilled to be back at The Gateway! She previously appeared in the regional premiere of *On Your Feet!* Credits include Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (Redhouse Arts), Anne in *A Little Night Music* (Barrington Stage) and

Maria in *West Side Story* (Milwaukee Rep, Pittsburgh CLO, and KC Starlight). Musical Theater Graduate from University of Michigan. Shoutout to my familia and my partner, Josh for always supporting me. Para mi isla, Puerto Rico. @_sabinacollazo



SAMARA DECASTRO (*Rosalia, u/s Maria, Somewhere Solo*) is thrilled to be making her professional debut at The Gateway! Samara will be graduating from Montclair State University with a BFA in Musical Theater this May. She thanks her

family, friends, and professors for their continuous love and support. Represented by Paradigm. @samaraadecastro on Instagram.



ANGELINA DIDEA (*Minnie, Margarita, u/s Anybods*) is a dancer, actor, singer, content creator, emcee, and model from Pennsylvania. She is based in New York City and recently graduated from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. With 16 years

of performance experience, she makes her regional theatre debut in *West Side Story* at The Gateway! Her

Continued on page 14



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Sun. Oct. 18 @ 7pm

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Sat. Oct. 24 @ 8pm

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& CHRISTINA DAHL**

Wed. Oct. 28 @ 7pm

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Fri. Oct. 30 @ 6:30pm

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work includes commercials for Heelys, Roblox, and Journeys, Performing with Twink and a Redhead at the ACLU fundraiser, and emceeing for ID Dance Competition.



BRYAN ERNESTO MENJIVAR* (*Juanito, Associate Choreographer, Dance Captain*) Originally from Hollywood, California now living in Harlem, NYC. Off Broadway: *Rappucinni's Daughter, Sgt Stubby*. Regional: *Fame, Saturday Night Fever, In the Heights, Evita, On Your Feet! En Español*. He is excited to be back here at The Gateway with this phenomenal team and dedicates this to his cast, his family, his amazing dog Oliver, and most importantly his amazing partner Theo. Te Amo Te Quiero Te Adoro y ALULU. Xoxo. Insta: hauz_of_be

He is excited to be back here at The Gateway with this phenomenal team and dedicates this to his cast, his family, his amazing dog Oliver, and most importantly his amazing partner Theo. Te Amo Te Quiero Te Adoro y ALULU. Xoxo. Insta: hauz_of_be



CURTIS J FAULKNER* (*Pepe, u/s Bernardo*) (he/him) The Gateway debut! Off-Broadway: *The Joe Hill Revival, Skyscraper the Musical*. Recent adventures: Jersey Shore Arts Center, Disney Cruise Line, Dallas Theater Center, The Long Center.

Curtis was born and raised in Austin, Texas, and graduated from SMU. Gracias a Dios, a mi familia, y a mi amor. @curtisjfaulkner



MEGAN ELYSE FULMER* (*Anita*) is excited to make her debut at The Gateway as ANITA! She had the privilege of originating the role of Lola in the world premiere of *Take the Lead* at Papermill Playhouse while understudying Adrienne Bailon and

fulfilling her duties as dance captain. Other credits: Off Broadway: *¡Americano!* (Ensemble) National tours: *Shrek the Musical* (Swing), *Straight Outta Oz* starring Todrick Hall (Ensemble), and *The Bodyguard* (DC/ featured ensemble). US Premieres: *Deceived* at Maltz Jupiter Theater (Nancy), and *The Bodyguard* at Papermill Playhouse (Ensemble). TV/ Film: *Law and Order SVU* (Ariana Lopez), *Behind the Curtain* on Prime (Self), *21st Century Courtship* (Mariana). Megan also had the privilege of backup dancing and singing for *Julianne Hough's Holiday Show* at the Paradise Club in Time Square. Thank you to the creative team for this incredible opportunity. Thank you Hudson Artist Agency, Jeremy Adam Rey, y lo más importante, mi familia. #wepawhileyouwerk www.meganelysefulmer.com @meg_fulms



ABIGAIL GRAHAM (*Anybods*) is a NYC performer who is so excited to be making their Gateway debut this spring with such an incredible group of people! As a long time theatre professional, Abigail has spent the last 6 years traveling the country (and the world)

telling stories and making people smile. Some favorite credits include *A Chorus Line* (Bebe), *Scooby-Doo: Mystery at the Mall* (Velma Dinkly), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Riff Raff). Much love to the cast, crew, and creative team - thank you for all your incredible support and encouragement <3 @abigaillelengraham



GABRIEL HOBBS (*Diesel*) is so excited to be a part of this production of *West Side Story*. Recent credits include: The Escapologist/Ensemble in *Matilda* (Black Rock Theatre), Ensemble in *Something Rotten!* (The Barnstormers Theatre), and Caiaphas in *Jesus*

Christ Superstar (IAMT). Huge thank you to IAMT and my family. @gabealanhobbs.



JACKSON HURT* (*Tony*) is thrilled to be making his debut at The Gateway! Tour: *Elf the Musical*, *My Fair Lady* (2nd, 3rd Nat'l) Select Regional: Disney's *Newsies*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Tuacahn), *The Sound of Music*, *Memphis* (The

Lex), *Cinderella* (Aurora), *Little Women*, *Grease*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (The Palace), *Pippin* (Cincinnati Landmark), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (The Carnegie). Cruise: RCCL. All my love to Evan. Many thanks to his family and UIA. NKU BFA Alum. @jackson.hurt12. Ephesians 6:16.



CARLOS JIMENEZ* (*Bernardo*) (he/him) is so excited to be back at The Gateway! Originally from Morovis, Puerto Rico & raised in New Jersey, he is now happily based in NYC. Broadway: *West Side Story* (Shark Swing). Pre-Broadway: *Devil Wears*

Prada (Swing/Nate u/s) Regional: *Evita* (Ensemble/ Tango Feature), *Kinky Boots* (Angel), *Cinderella* (Ensemble), Jimmy Buffet's *Escape to Margaritaville* (Dance Captain/Ensemble), *West Side Story* (Chino, U/S Bernardo), *In the Heights* (Ensemble, u/s Sonny). Sending so much love and gratitude to his parents and his chosen family. Represented by Daniel Hoff. @cajimen0127

Continued on page 16

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~ New York Times Review

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WHO'S WHO



ASHTON LAMBERT* (*Riff*) (he/him) is overjoyed to be making his Gateway debut with one of his all-time favorite shows! Tours: *West Side Story* (International Tour), *Tootsie* (First National Tour). Regional Theatre: *Bull Durham* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *Grease* (North Shore Music Theatre), *42nd Street* (Theatre By the Sea), *Fiddler on the Roof* (ACT of Connecticut), *Cats* (Flat Rock Playhouse), *Camelot* (TUTS), *Newsies* (Utah Festival OMT), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Little Theatre OTS), *A Chorus Line* (Reagle Music Theatre). TV: Dancer on *Saturday Night Live* (NBC). Ashton is a proud Otterbein University Graduate (BFA Musical Theatre/Dance Minor). He would like to thank his Dad, Mom, Duncan, Jules, Bloc NYC, and all his wonderful friends for their constant support! Instagram: @ashtolambo.



KEEGHAN LAVERY (*Pauline, Jet Girl Swing*) is thrilled to be making her Gateway performance debut! Originally from Long Island, Keeghan is a proud alumna of Stage Door School of Dance and Oklahoma City University (BFA Dance Performance).

Her recent credits include Resident Ensemble dance captain, featured dancer, and swing with Music Theatre Wichita. Additionally, Associate Choreographer and Choreographer for the Gateway Conservatory division (*Matilda Jr.* and *Willy Wonka Jr.*). Thank you to my incredible family for all your support on this journey, as well as friends and chosen family for your endless love! @keeghan_lavery



DUSTIN LAWSON (*Glad Hand; Wig, Hair, & Makeup Design*) is a Tennessee native, and is thrilled to begin his third season here at the Gateway, both onstage and backstage! Some favorite past roles include Seymour Krelborn (*Little Shop*

of Horrors), Drew Boley (*Rock of Ages*), Brad Majors (*The Rocky Horror Picture Show*) Billy Cane (*Bright Star*), and Terk (Disney's *Tarzan*). However, Dustin is most known for his Wig and Makeup Design. Regional: *Pretty Woman* (Regional Premiere), *42nd Street*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *Rock of Ages*, and others at the Gateway. During the Fall he serves as the Creature and Makeup Designer for Gateway's Haunted Playhouse. Other notable credits include his work on the workshops of *Evil Dead: The Musical* (High School

Edition) and *Mean Girls* (High School Edition) at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Center in Loch Sheldrake, NY. For Mom and Dad. Instagram: @double.take.sfx



LILY MENDOZA (*Estrella*) (she/her) is making her regional debut in *West Side Story* at The Gateway! She is a first year student at The Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts majoring in Musical Theater Dance. In the past year, she was a part of their

production of *Footloose* and *Dog Sees God*. She would love to thank her family and friends for supporting her through it all!



JACK MINTZ (*A-Rab, u/s Tony*) is thrilled to be making his Gateway debut! A Boston-based actor, Jack is now entering his final year at the Boston Conservatory where he's training for his BFA in Musical Theater with a specialization in dance. Recent

credits include *Urinetown* (Officer Lockstock), *Legally Blonde* (Kyle), *West Side Story* (Swing, u/s Riff) and *Alice by Heart* (Caterpillar). Thank you to his teachers, friends, and family. Enjoy the show! @Minnty-Mint



BRANDON MORENO (*Toro*) (he/they) is thrilled to be making his Gateway debut! Hailing from Los Angeles, Brandon is proud to be celebrating his Salvadoran heritage in such an amazing show. Some favorite credits include Carlos in the national tour of

Legally Blonde and Jason Weems in the national tour of *Mean Girls*. Other credits include Larry in *A Chorus Line* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival) and dancing for the mouse in *Mickey's Most Merriest Celebration* (Walt Disney World). I would like to thank my family and friends for always cheering me on, and I want to shout out my amazing agent Brian at Hell's Kitchen Agency for being the best at what you do! Join the party on instagram! @busy.with.brandonn



JACK DAVID MULLEN (*Big Deal, u/s Action*) First year at IAMT. Thrilled to have his Gateway debut! Munny: *La Cage aux Folles*, *Evita*, *Bring it On*, and 18 more. Others: *Pippin* (Leading Player), *The Addams Family* (Gomez),

Continued on page 18



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Pajama Game (Sid), *Puffs* (Narrator), *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Upcoming: Stages Saint Louis - *Guys and Dolls*. "Thank you friends and family and IAMT. This role is dedicated with gratitude to Mark Krupinski."

tugs ear @jackdavidmullen



PJ PALMER (*Action*, u/s *Riff*) is stoked to be back in the gang for his 14th production of *West Side Story*. He was recently seen on Broadway hailing a taxi, but more legitimate credits include: National tour: *Elf: The Musical*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Regional: *Goodspeed*, *Paper Mill*, *MUNY*, *North Shore*, *Maine State*, *REV*, *North Carolina Theatre*, *Fulton*, *Tuacahn*, *Casa Manana*, *Flat Rock*, *Stages St. Louis*, *Engeman*, and more. Proud member of *AEA*, *American Eagle Awards* program. @peejpalm



ALEXIS PAPALEO (*Francisca*, u/s *Anita*) is a recent *NYU Tisch* grad and is so excited to be making her Gateway debut! Off Broadway: *3Penny Opera*. Regional: *When Elvis Met the Beatles* (*Ogunquit Playhouse*) *Jesus Christ Superstar* (*Ensemble*, *The REV*),

Something Rotten (*Ensemble & Dance Captain*, *Playhouse Stage Co.*), *A Chorus Line* (*Sheila*, *NYU Tisch*). Much love and thanks to the *WSS* team, her family, and *Danny* and *Meghan* at *Hudson Artists*! @alexis_papaleo



RODOLFO SANTAMARINA (*Indio*, u/s *Chino*) originally from Argentina. Credits: *On Your Feet!* Broadway National Tour, *The Addams Family*, *Sister Act*, *Pretty Woman The Musical*, *West Side Story*, *Cabaret*, *In The Heights*, *Mummy in the Closet*: *Evita's*

Return, *Joseph...*, *FAME*, *The Littlest Tree*. Argentina: *Sugar*, *El Gran Final*, *Disney Momentos Mágicos*. Tv: *Talento Argentino*, *Susana Gimenez*. Movies: *High School Musical El Desafío* (Arg & Mex). Dance: *Royal Caribbean*, *Galletto Tango Company* (NYC).

@rodosantamarina



OLIVIA SCHUH (*Velma*) is thrilled to be making her Gateway debut in none other than the ever-classic *West Side Story*. She recently was seen in the NYC debut of the play, *Weapon in Waiting* at *Arts on Site*, as well as in the world premiere of *One For My Baby*

at *All Roads Theatre Company* in *Los Angeles*. Other favorite credits include dancing in *Broadway Bares*, *Broadway Showstoppers* at the *Saban Theatre* and singing in cabarets around *New York City* at venues such as the *Laurie Beechman* and *Green Room 42*. All the love and more to her family, mentor, agents and friends - the many people who keep me sane - or at least try their darnedest



JESSE SWIMM* (*Lt. Schrank* u/s *Doc*) is thrilled to return to *The Gateway* with *West Side Story*. Broadway:

School of Rock (OBC), *Mary Poppins* (u/s Bert). Tours: *Cameron Mackintosh's My Fair Lady*. Regional: *42nd Street* (Pat Denning, u/s Julian Marsh, The Gateway), *Sweet Charity* (Oscar, Maltz Jupiter), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Durdles Alternate, u/s Bazzard, Goodspeed Opera House), *Billy Elliot* (George, u/s Dad, Goodspeed Opera House), *Footloose* (Reverend Shaw Moore, CFRT), *The Full Monty*

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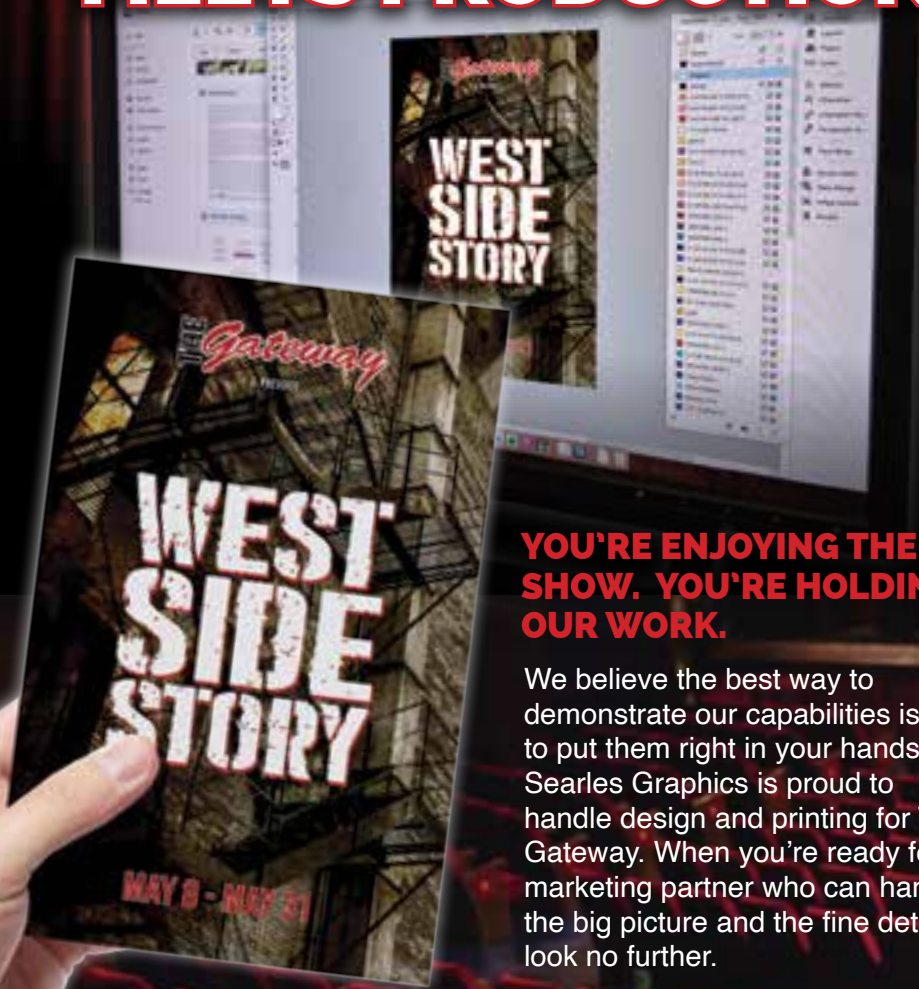
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(Harold Nichols, Transcendence Theatre Co), Disney's *Beauty & the Beast* (Lumiere, Sharon Playhouse) *Rock of Ages* (Dennis Dupree, Argyle Theatre). Thank you to Vincent, Andrew, Rachel, Paul, and my agents at The Mine. Love to my Mom & Dad. IG: @jswimm1



MANNY ERIAS (*Officer Krupke*) aka 'Tugboat Manny' is thrilled to be making his Gateway debut. Born in Niagara Falls, NY, and raised in East Setauket, he now calls Patchogue home. After taking a comedy class 13 years ago, Manny launched into

performing clean comedy across the country. His credits include appearances at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City, the Westbury Music Fair, and Las Vegas. A passionate mental health advocate and former Naval Reservist, Manny has also dedicated time to teaching the fine art of stand-up comedy to fellow veterans, helping them transition from military service back into civilian life. He's grateful to be part of The Gateway family.



ALYSIA VASTARDIS (*Graziella*) is thrilled to be making her Gateway debut in *West Side Story*! Some favorite credits include: Nat'l Tour: *Elf the Musical* (Ensemble u/s Jovie), Cruise: *Beetlejuice* (Barbara Maitland, NCL), *Saturday Night Fever* (Annette,

Royal Caribbean). Regional: Ogunquit Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, The Palace Theatre. Off-Broadway: *Maddie the Musical*. She graduated from Point Park University with BFA Musical Theatre, minor in Dance! All the love and thanks to the incredible creative team: Vince, Ashley, Andrew, Jake, and Bryan! She is so thankful to her family, friends, Matt, and MTA for always supporting her! Alysiavastardis.com @alysiavastardis

VINCENT ORTEGA* (*Director/Choreographer*) is thrilled to return to his HOME: The Gateway, as Director/Choreographer. Vincent is very passionate about Latinx Representation and is thrilled to be presenting this beautiful piece to this amazing community here. Vincent has many credits here at The Gateway as Director and Choreographer. Vincent made his Gateway directing debut with *In The Heights*. Past credits at The Gateway include *The Wedding Singer*, *A Century of Christmas*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *A Chorus Line*, *Spamalot*, *South Pacific*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Addams Family*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Flashdance the Musical*, *On Your Feet!*, *Elf the Musical*, and *Head Over*

Heels. Other Choreography highlights are Nickelodeon, Disney's *Descendants*, Super Bowl, Camilla Cabello, The Black Eyed Peas, Janet Jackson, Bad Bunny, and most recently at London's O2 Arena with Ice Cube. Choreography projects also include work for Netflix and Disney Channel. He'll soon be working on *Rent* and *Come From Away*. Vincent would like to thank everyone at The Gateway for this opportunity, especially Paul Allan, Michael Baker, and Rachel Armitstead for their trust and encouragement, Andrew Austin for his talent and support, Bryan Ernesto Menjivar for his help and love, and of course, his INCREDIBLE associate Ashley Klinger for her incredible skills, passion for her craft, and all around love. He couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to his phenomenal cast and crew. He's beyond overwhelmed with the support and love that surrounds him. Follow Vincent @VinceOrtega on Instagram, @VincentOrtega on TikTok

ASHLEY KLINGER* (*Associate Director/Choreographer, Intimacy Director*) is returning to The Gateway with her favorite creative team. Recent Gateway productions include *The Full Monty* (ID), *Pretty Woman* (ID), *Head Over Heels*, *The Wedding Singer* (Assoc. Dir/Chor), and Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville* (Assoc. Dir/Chor). Favorite Credits: *A Chorus Line* National tours, Victoria's Secret Commercials, *Law and Order SVU*, *Pippin* (Fastrada), *Jersey Boys* (Riverside), Stroman's *The Merry Widow*. She is an alum of Point Park University (Dance) and has extensive teaching and choreography experience. <http://www.ashleydklinger.com> IG: @ashleydklinger Hudson Artists Agency

ANDREW HAILE AUSTIN (*Music Director*) is a composer, pianist, and conductor currently living in Brooklyn, NY. After graduating from college, he moved to NYC, where he worked at several arts schools while freelancing as a conductor for many theatres and universities in the New York City area. Since that time, Andrew has music-directed over 100 productions of operas and musicals across the country, most recently at Riverside Theatre, Virginia Music Theatre, The Gateway, New Bedford Festival Theatre, and Theatre Under the Stars. He is also the music supervisor for the national tour of *Miracle on 34th Street* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas Live!*. As a teacher, he has taught both high school and college-age students working at several schools in NYC, including the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), and ten years at the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, VA. As a composer, his works have been presented throughout the country,

Continued on page 24

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recently at the Source Song Festival in Minneapolis and at the Connecticut Summerfest in Hartford, CT. He was also named composer-in-residence for the Tidewater Opera Initiative (TOI) who presented his opera, *The Snow Maiden of Appalachia*. Andrew holds a doctorate in composition from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where he studied with composer Kevin Puts. This is Andrew's 25th show at The Gateway! www.andrewhaileAustin.com

JAKE TURSKI (*Associate Music Director*) is thrilled to be returning to The Gateway after a year away! NYC pianist/music director. Has been faculty/staff at Molloy College/CAP21 Conservatory, AMDA NYC, LaGuardia High School, Neighborhood Playhouse and others. Former keyboard sub for the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and cruising with Norwegian and Royal Caribbean. Special thanks to his mom, and maestro Andrew Austin for inviting him to join in the fun. Enjoy the show!

BETHANY SORTMAN* (*Production Stage Manager*) Broadway: *Chicago*; Tours: *Elf The Musical*, *Chicago*, *Summer: The Donna Summer...*, *Finding Neverland*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Cabaret*; Regional/Stock favorites: *42nd Street*, *Mary Poppins*, *Spamalot*, *Young Frankenstein*, *A Chorus Line*. Endless gratitude for all those who continue to guide and support her along this journey we call Life. DH

BRENDAN M CULLEN* (*Assistant Stage Manager*) (he/him) is happy to return to The Gateway for *West Side Story*. Credits include: *The Full Monty* (The Gateway), *Rock of Ages*, *The Secret Garden* (A.C.T. of Connecticut), *Head Over Heels*, *Escape to Margaritaville* (Theatre SilCo), *Into the Woods* (Resident Theatre Company), *King Lear*, *Hamlet* (American Shakespeare Center), and *{my lingerie play}* (Joe's Pub). Thanks to Bethany for the opportunity. Love for Little Red Sofa. Brendan can be vaguely monitored @nopostsgiven

REBECCA KLEEMAN (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to return to The Gateway for *West Side Story*! Her most recent stage management credits include: *The Full Monty* (ASM, The Gateway), *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition* (SM, Greater Boston Stage Company), *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* (SM, Totem Pole Playhouse), *The 39 Steps* (ASM, Totem Pole Playhouse), *9 to 5* (ASM, Totem Pole Playhouse). She proudly graduated with a B.F.A. in Stage Management from Boston University.

JOSÉ SANTIAGO (*Lighting Design*), who started working at The Gateway back in 2003 as an electrics intern, is excited to be back home. His work has been seen at Palm Beach Dramaworks, Pioneer Theatre Company, Ogunquit Playhouse, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Chicago Opera, The Paramount Theatre (Aurora, IL), Drury Lane (Chicago), The REV Theatre Company, Skylight Music Theatre, Center REP, Bristol Riverside Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Theatre by the Sea, Bay Street Theatre, Gretna Playhouse, The Gateway, The Engeman Theater, Guild Hall, Penobscot Theatre, 5 Star Theatricals, Slow Burn Theatre, Gulfshore Playhouse. He received his MFA in Lighting Design from Florida State University. Proud member of USA829 and represented by Michael Moore Agency. www.jsantiagodesign.com

JANINE LOESCH (*Costume Design*) is a New York based Costume Designer. Other costume designs include: *Welcome to the Big Dipper* (The York, Off-Broadway World Premiere), *Evita**, *Jersey Boys**, *Rock of Ages**, Jimmy Buffet's *Escape to Margaritaville**, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical**, *Holiday Spectacular on Ice* with Nancy Kerrigan, *The Addams Family*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Full Monty* (The Gateway), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *King Lear**, *And Then There Were None** (South Shore Experience), *A View from the Bridge**, *The Revolutionist* (Modern Classics Theatre @BACCA), *The Mikado* (New York Tour), Junior Versions of: *Spongebob The Musical*, Disney's *The Lion King*, Disney's *Finding Nemo*, *Matilda*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, and *Legally Blonde, Teen Edition* (The Gateway Conservatory). Janine was the Wardrobe Supervisor on the World Premiere Off-Broadway Production of *The Last Supper: Musical*, the Original Off-Broadway Premiere of *¡Americano!*, and the Off-Broadway Production of *Fiddler on the Roof: In Yiddish with English Supertitles*, Directed By Joel Grey. She also Costume-Coordinated The First National Tour of *The Cher Show: A Broadway Musical*, and the National Tour of *Little Women: The Broadway Musical*. *Indicates BroadwayWorld Best Costume Design Nominee. Visit for more: <https://janineloeschtbb.wixsite.com/janine-loesch-cd>



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ARTHUR LAURENTS (*Book*) An award-winning playwright, screenwriter, librettist, director and producer, Arthur Laurents has been responsible for creating the librettos of many Broadway shows including *Gypsy*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Do I Hear A Waltz?*, *Hallelujah, Baby!* and *Nick & Nora*. He wrote the screenplays for *The Snake Pit*, *Anna Lucasta*, *Anastasia*, *Bonjour Tristesse*, *The Way We Were* and *The Turning Point*. He also wrote the plays *Home Of The Brave*, *The Time Of The Cuckoo* and *A Clearing in The Woods*. He directed *I Can Get It For You Wholesale*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Gypsy*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Birds Of Paradise* and *Nick & Nora*.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN (*Music*) was a world-renowned American composer, conductor, and educator born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He studied at Harvard and the Curtis Institute and rose to prominence after his acclaimed 1943 debut with the New York Philharmonic, where he later served as Music Director (1958–1969), leaving behind an extensive legacy of recordings. An influential advocate for American music, Bernstein composed works including *On the Town* (1944), *Wonderful Town* (1953), *Candide* (1956), and *West Side Story* (1957), collaborating with artists such as Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Jerome Robbins, Stephen Sondheim, Hugh Wheeler, and Arthur Laurents. His concert works include *Symphony No. 1 "Jeremiah"*, *Chichester Psalms*, and *Mass*. A celebrated conductor, he helped revive interest in Mahler and reached global audiences through his televised *Young People's Concerts*. His honors include multiple Emmy and Grammy Awards, the Kennedy Center Honors, and a Lifetime Achievement Grammy. Bernstein was also a lifelong outspoken humanitarian, advocating for the civil rights movement, Amnesty International, AIDS awareness and research, and the end of the Cold War, alongside countless other causes. Bernstein's centennial was celebrated from 2017–2019, generating over 5,700 events worldwide.

STEPHEN SONDHEIM (*Lyrics*) was a groundbreaking composer and lyricist born and raised in New York City whose work reshaped modern musical theatre. He wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970, Tony Award), *Follies* (1971, Tony Award), *A Little Night Music* (1973, Tony Award), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979, Tony Award),

Merrily We Roll Along (1981), *Sunday In The Park With George* (1984, Pulitzer Prize), *Into The Woods* (1987, Tony Award), *Assassins* (1991, *Passion* (1994, Tony Award), *Road Show* (2008) and *HERE WE ARE* (2023), as well as the lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). Side By Side By Sondheim (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99), *Moving On* (2001), *Sondheim On Sondheim* (2010) and *Old Friends* (2023) are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films, he composed the scores of "Stavisky" (1974), co-composed the score for "Reds" (1981), and wrote songs for "Dick Tracy" (1990). He wrote songs for the television production "Evening Primrose" (1966), co-authored the film "The Last of Sheila" (1973) and the play *Getting Away With Murder* (1996) and provided incidental music for the plays *The Girls of Summer* (1956), *Invitation To A March* (1961), *Twigs* (1971) and *The Enclave* (1973). His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: "Finishing the Hat" (2010) and "Look, I Made a Hat" (2011). In 2010, the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor, and in 2019 he became the first living artist to have a theatre named in his honor on Shaftesbury Avenue when the refurbished Queen's Theatre in London's West End was renamed the Sondheim Theatre to commemorate his 90th birthday, by Sir Cameron Mackintosh. His legacy continues to influence artists worldwide.

JEROME ROBBINS (*Original Concept, Direction, Choreography*) was a world-renowned director and choreographer whose work spanned ballet, Broadway, film, and television. He began as a modern and Broadway dancer before joining American Ballet Theatre in 1939, where he performed principal roles. His first ballet, *Fancy Free* (1944), remains widely performed. Robbins later joined New York City Ballet as Associate Artistic Director alongside George Balanchine while continuing his groundbreaking work in musical theatre. His Broadway credits include *On the Town*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *West Side Story*, for which he won two Academy Awards for co-direction and choreography. In addition to his two Academy Awards, Mr. Robbins's awards and citations include four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, two Emmy Awards, the Screen

Continued on page 30

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Directors' Guild Award and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Mr. Robbins is a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient, was awarded the Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, is an honorary member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and was awarded a National Medal of Arts as well as the Governor's Arts Awards by the New York State Council on the Arts. In 1989, Jerome Robbins's Broadway won six Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Director. He was most recently awarded the French Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. Jerome Robbins passed away in 1998.

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Musician Contractor	Peter Pece
Office Assistant.....	Alicia Ann Seidler

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Director/Choreographer.....	Vincent Ortega
Associate Director/Choreographer, Intimacy Director	Ashley Klinger
Associate Choreographer/ Dance Captain.....	Bryan Ernesto Menjivar
Music Director	Andrew Haile Austin
Associate Music Director	Jake Turski
Lighting Design	José Santiago
Costume Design	Janine Loesch
Wigs, Hair, & Makeup Design	Dustin Lawson
Properties Design & Scenic Coordinator	Brittany Loesch
Sound Design.....	Leonardo Mignola
Sound Consultant.....	Don Hanna

EDUCATION

Director of Education.....	Michael Baker
Education Manager	Rachel Armitstead
Education Administrator.....	Kaitlyn LaGrega
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Production Stage Manager.....	Bethany Sortman
Technical Director	John Sabo
Properties & Paints Supervisor	Brittany Loesch
Lighting & Electrics Supervisor.....	Riley Noble
Costume Shop Manager	Janine Loesch
Audio Engineer	Leonardo Mignola
Wigs, Hair, & Makeup Supervisor	Dustin Lawson
Rentals Manager/ Associate Production Manager.....	Tony Tambasco
Assistant Stage Managers	Brendan M. Cullen, Rebecca Kleeman
Head Carpenter.....	Katie Cully
Wardrobe Supervisor	Izzy Mangiaracina
Lead Staff Carpenter	Emily Rinfret
Properties & Paints Assistants	Rev. Maige Anderson, Leo Fuller
Staff Electrician.....	Shelby Fairchild
Staff Carpenters	Randal Bogues, Jacob Bubeck, Samuel Koch, Juno Szymanski
Audio Assistant.....	Jake Rizzo
Costumes & Wardrobe Staff.....	Casey Young
Stage Technician.....	Shannon Gibbons
Wardrobe Technician	Alicia Ann Seidler

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