

**DOBAMA
THEATRE**



AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

**JANUARY 26—
FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

WRITTEN BY:
Terry Guest

DIRECTED BY:
Preston Crowder

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In recognizing the land upon which we reside, we express our gratitude and appreciation to those who lived and worked here before us; those whose stewardship and resilient spirit makes our residence possible on this traditional homeland of the Lenape (Delaware), Shawnee, Wyandot Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi, and other Great Lakes tribes (Chippewa, Kickapoo, Wea, Pinakshaw, and Kaskaskia). We also acknowledge the thousands of Native Americans who now call Northeast Ohio home. Dobama Theatre and the greater Cleveland area occupy land officially ceded by 1100 chiefs and warriors signing the Treaty of Greenville in 1795.

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

Dobama Theatre is committed to anti-racism action and a culture of authentic inclusivity. This effort is ongoing and will not end anytime soon. Our work is divided into three parts: The People, The Work, and The Process. The People come first, as they also do in our core values. We care for the whole person and create a larger, more equitable table for all to pursue our mission together. The Work are actions being taken to root out white supremacist, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, and other oppressive structures so that we might replace them with organizational tools built on consensus, transparency, and trust. The Process is how we will move forward in equitably representing and investing in the community we serve, and how we will continue to assess our progress, remain accountable, and determine further action in years to come.

For more information on these and other efforts, visit dobama.org/antiracism

AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



When Playwright Terry Guest was 15 years old, his beloved uncle sat him down and said, “I am gay and I have AIDS”. Guest, who at that time had just begun to realize that he himself was gay, struggled with these revelations.

When his uncle died about a year after that conversation, Guest found himself shoved further in the closet, but he felt pulled to learn more about his uncle and honor him. Years later, in writing *At the Wake of A Dead Drag Queen*, Guest has created his own opportunity to explore his feelings, celebrate his uncle’s life, and invite others to do the same.

This irreverent, hilarious, and moving new play thoughtfully uses storytelling, drama, and drag to celebrate life and love. It’s a raucous, entertaining, and thought-provoking script that is equal parts drag show, comedy, and drama. We are thrilled to share this dynamic production with audiences.

We are also thrilled to launch Dobama’s new “Full Circle Program” with this production. This new initiative connects audiences and artists with the communities represented onstage and the organizations that support them through audience engagement offerings. For *Drag Queen*, Dobama collaborated with local drag performers Onya Nurve and Veranda L’Ni as consultants on the show, helping to ensure the production was created with cultural competency. Onya was present in rehearsals and assisted on choreography, costume, and dramaturgy, and both queens advised on makeup.

Dobama also partnered with Near West Theatre and Veranda L’Ni offering the first *Drag Story Hour* at Dobama Theatre for area families. Additionally, to tie in the story’s focus on the health disparities facing BIPOC LGBTQ+ people living with HIV, Dobama proudly partnered with the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland to provide free HIV testing, resources, and information to audiences including post-show discussions following dedicated performances throughout the run of the show.

Look for information on these Full Circle events and future partnerships for mainstage productions at dobama.org/full-circle.

On behalf of everyone at Dobama, we thank you for attending this performance, for your investment in the arts, and for your support of Dobama Theatre.

With Love and Respect,



Nathan Motta



Thank you for pushing artistic boundaries. You inspire us.

XO,

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



PRESTON CROWDER (he/they), born and raised in Nashville, TN, is a playwright-actor-director-songwriter with a passion for telling stories surrounding the vast experiences of being Black and Queer in the United States. Preston's production history as a playwright includes *BOCKING* (The New Group, Staged Reading 2023), *Don't Look Black* (Tennessee Playwrights Studio, 2022), *Worlds Melt* (The New School of Drama, 2021), *Break Your Chains* (Juilliard School, 2017), and *Flames* (University School of Nashville, 2016). Preston's acting Credits include *Pipeline* (Xavier, Oberlin College), *Is God Is* (Scotch, The New School of Drama), *Night Into Morning* (Xavier, Short Film), *Maidens* (Figure 3,

Tennessee Playwrights Studio), *Sweat* (Chris, Humanity Theater Project) and *Clybourne Park* (Kevin/Albert, Circle Players). Directing credits include *My Dead Boyfriend Is A Robot* (Oberlin College), *Night Into Morning* (Short Film) and *Detroit '67* (Assistant Director, Karamu House). Preston is a past fellow for the Tennessee Playwrights Studio (2019). Preston was also named a semi-finalist playwright for both the 2023 Del Shore Writers Search (*BOCKING*) and the 2022 Obsidian Theater Festival (*BOCKING*). Preston holds a Playwriting MFA degree from The New School of Drama and a BFA degree from Oberlin College, where they currently serve as a visiting Professor of Theater and Africana Studies.



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AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



TERRY GUEST is an award-winning Playwright, Actor, Director and Teaching Artist based in Chicago, IL. His play *The Magnolia Ballet* has been performed all over the country and was the recipient of 2 Jeff Awards (Best Performer, Best Production) and the National New Play Network David Goldman Best New American Play Award. Other plays include: *Marie Antionette and the Magical Negros* (3 Jeff Award wins including Best Director and Best New Work), *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen*, *Andy Warhol Presents: The Cocaine Play*, *OAK*, and *The Madness of Mary Todd*. As an actor, Terry has worked at regional theaters around the country including Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Goodman Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Actors Express, and others. Terry is a Governing Ensemble Member at The Story Theatre and is signed by DDO Chicago. Inspired by: Whitney Houston, Stephen Sondheim, his grandma in the kitchen, Spike Lee, Tennessee Williams, Beyoncé (duh), Bob Fosse, Bob Mackie, Kerry James Marshall, Nina Simone, Paul Thomas Anderson, Liza Minelli, Alice Walker and the creativity and resilience of Black people around the world.

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DOBAMA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
the Regional Premiere of

AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

BY TERRY GUEST

DIRECTED BY PRESTON CROWDER

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 18, 2024

THE CAST

JASON ENO*
COURTNEY/ANTHONY

DAN HENDROCK*
VICKIE/HUNTER

UNDERSTUDIES: **ADAM RAWLINGS** (VICKIE), **CORIN B. SELF** (COURTNEY)

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
^ Member USA829



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorsequity.org

THIS PLAY WILL BE PERFORMED WITH NO INTERMISSION

Patrons who exit the theatre will only be allowed re-entry at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

A note from the playwright:

The CDC estimates that 50% of African American men who sleep with men will contract HIV in their lifetime.

Last year, the House of Representatives proposed a \$220 million cut in CDC funding for AIDS prevention.

I wrote a play. Your move.

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Dobama Theatre is a proud member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

Preston Crowder

SCENIC DESIGNER

Ben Needham

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Benjamin Gantose

SOUND DESIGNER

Megan Culley^

COSTUME DESIGNER

Suwatana Rockland

PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

DRAG CONSULTANT

Onya Nurve

INTIMACY DIRECTORS

Colin Anderson

Casey Venema

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Jeremy Paul

STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Colin Anderson

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Ananias J. Dixon

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Bea Shakow

Andy Zicari

ASST. SOUND DESIGNER (FOCUS)

E.J. Buckner

SCENIC PAINTER

Justine Schneider

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nathan Motta

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Colin Anderson

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Marcus Dana

RESIDENT SOUND DESIGNER

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RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

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Vanessa Cook

RESIDENT INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Casey Venema

RESIDENT SCENIC ARTIST

Justine Schneider

RESIDENT STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

BOX OFFICE STAFF

DeLee Cooper, Kelsey Malone

FOCUS APPRENTICES

E.J. Buckner (Sound); Jasmine

A. Golphin (Projections);

Cam Henderson (Stage Management)

RADs (Resident Associates)

Lizzi Lucarell (Technical);

Emily Polcyn (Administration);

Maddie Schwartz (Administration)

DOBAMA MISSION

Dobama Theatre is dedicated to premiering important new plays by established and emerging playwrights in professional productions of the highest quality. Through theatrical production, community engagement, and education programming, Dobama nurtures the development of theatre artists and builds new audiences for the arts while provoking an examination of our contemporary world.

AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

CAST



JASON ENO*
(COURTNEY/
ANTHONY) is ecstatic
to be back at Dobama
Theatre after appearing
as the Tin Man in the
World Premiere of *The
Land of Oz!* Credits
include: The First
National Broadway Tour

of *The Wedding Singer*. NYC: *Fatty Fatty
No Friends! A Dark Operetta; Tink! The
Musical* (NYMF). Cleveland/Regional Theatre
Highlights: *A Christmas Carol* (Great Lakes
Theatre Festival); *Sweeney Todd* (Rubber
City Theatre); *Legend of Georgia McBride*
(Beck Center); *Bluesman* (Breen Center);
RENT (Cain Park); *On the Line* (Rubber
City Theatre); *Joseph.../Smokey Joe's
Cafe* (Stages St. Louis); *Elf the Musical/The
Full Monty* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre);
Spelling Bee (Porthouse Theatre). BWMT
ALUM. Special thanks to the creative team,
cast, and crew for welcoming me on this
adventure. This is for my heart, my Mommy!
#LeadwithLove #BLM Enjoy the show!



DAN HENDROCK*
(VICKIE/HUNTER) is
ecstatic to be returning
to Dobama Theatre
having previously
played Louis XVI in
Marie Antoinette.
Dan is a professional
actor, director, and
teaching artist. He has

been professionally directing and acting in
Cleveland, NYC, and Chicago for the past
fifteen years. Dan has his MFA in Acting from
the Cleveland Play House/Case Western
Reserve University graduate acting program,
his BFA in Musical Theatre from Kent State
University, and is a proud member of AEA.
He currently serves as the Artistic Director at
the Academy for the Performing arts, where
he is a resident director and an instructor in
Acting, Speech, Movement, Theatre History,
Acting for the Camera, and Dialects. Dan also
holds his teaching certificate in the Michael
Chekhov Technique from the Great Lakes
Michael Chekhov Consortium. His performing
credits include many television, film, and
commercial appearances, regional theatre,
national tours, and Off-Broadway.

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Spencer Caress
Joel Hammer, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

Maurice Heller
Barbara Hill-Newby
Bill Newby

Jennifer Stapleton
Laura Anderson



ADAM RAWLINGS
UNDERSTUDY (VICKIE/
HUNTER) is joyful
that he's making his
Dobama debut with this
show! Most recently,
he was in *Head Over
Heels* (Basilius) at Near
West Theatre. He has
been lucky to work

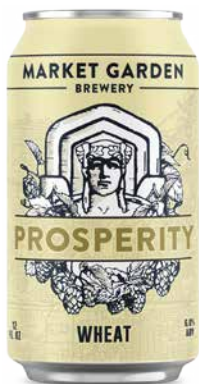
at Cedar Point, Cain Park, French Creek,
and Deaf West Theatre. His other favorite
credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim* (u/s
Man 1 & 2), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert
Martin), *Spring Awakening* (Hanschen), and
A Year with Frog and Toad (Man Bird). Later
this season, he will be back at Dobama in
Significant Other (Zach/Evan/Roger). Follow
him on Instagram @adamerawlings for future
updates. He would like to thank his brother/
roommate Paul for giving endless love and
support. U=U



CORIN B. SELF
UNDERSTUDY
(COURTNEY/ANTHONY)
is an actor, singer,
dancer and educator
from Cleveland, Ohio.
After studying Theatre at
Morgan State University
in Baltimore, Maryland
he decided to teach

for Baltimore City Public Schools and teach
Arts Education for the U.S. Dream Academy,
which is an afterschool program for the youth
in the community. His most recent works
have included Errol Philander in *Statements
After An Arrest Under the Immorality Act* at
convergence-continuum, Macduff in *Macbeth*
for Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, and
Monsignor O'Hara in *Sister Act: The Musical*
at Karamu House. He also shot a short film in
2006, *2nd Shift* (Rahsaan) which was featured
on BET Independent Film Channel.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

PRESTON CROWDER
(see About the Director)

SCENIC DESIGNER

BEN NEEDHAM

is pleased to be returning to Dobama. As the Owner and Principal Designer of Digital Squirrel Studio (www.digitalsquirrel.net), Ben has designed over 550 theatre productions for theatres across the country. In addition to his theatre work, Ben has been a set designer on several film and TV series, including Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, *Kill the Irishman*, *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy* and the 1st and 2nd seasons of AMC's *TURN - Washington's Spies*. Currently, Ben was also the set designer on the feature film *Ithaca*, directed by Meg Ryan, ABC's *The Kingmakers* fall pilot, and the new PBS drama *Mercy Street*. Ben thanks Christie for all her love and support.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

BENJAMIN GANTOSE

is thrilled to be back at Dobama after lighting *The Other Place* last season. He has designed lighting, sets, and projections for works spanning ballet and modern dance, scripted and devised theatre, musical theatre, opera, events and immersive installations. He is a Resident Designer at both Cleveland Public Theatre and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. Benjamin's work has been seen recently at Sacramento Ballet, Verb Ballet, Ballet Hawaii, Inlet Dance Theatre, Colorado Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Cleveland Play House, and Beck Center for the Arts.

SOUND DESIGNER^

MEGAN CULLEY

is a designer based in NYC. Selected Design: *Antigone* (Cleveland Play House); *The Loophole* (The Public Theater); *Holmes & Watson Apt. 2B* (KCRep); *Stew, Grounded, Hurricane*

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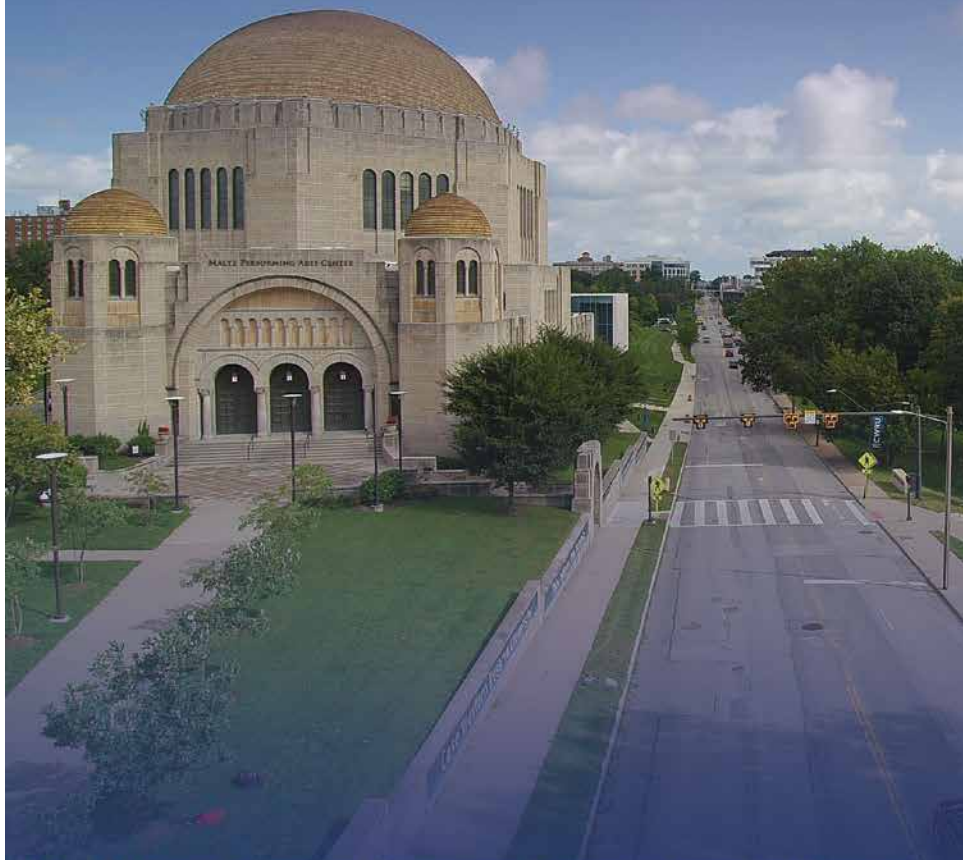
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Diane (Dobama Theatre); *Terminus* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Stranger Sings!* (Off-Broadway); *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (ACT of CT); *Inanimate* (The Flea Theater); *The Last Match* (B Street Theatre); *Roan @ the Gates* (Luna Stage); *The Color Purple* (Theatre Horizon). Selected Associate Design: *A Christmas Carol* with Jefferson Mays (Broadway); *Flying Over Sunset* (Broadway); *The Secret Garden* with Sierra Boggess (Center Theatre Group); *The Old Man and the Old Moon* (KCRep). meganculley.com

COSTUME DESIGNER

SUWATANA ROCKLAND

who also uses the nickname Pla, is delighted to join Dobama Theatre as Costume Designer for *At the Wake of A Dead Drag Queen* after designing *What We Look Like* last season. She is currently resident costume designer, professor, and costume shop supervisor at The College of Wooster. Suwatana is originally from Thailand. She is a former professional dancer, actress, director, choreographer, and designer. Suwatana has worked on industrial, commercial, television, and stage productions. Before moving to Ohio, she worked in Thailand, Colorado, and Arizona. In addition to her full-time employment, she finds time to freelance as a costume designer and guest lecturer for universities and theatres in the US and Thailand. She holds an MFA in Costume Design and Tech from Kent State University and is a member of USITT. Her professional credits in Ohio have included Dobama Theatre, Kent State, The Players Guild Theatre, Porthouse Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, The Ohio Light Opera, and the Case Western Reserve University-Cleveland Play House MFA program. plarocklanddesign.com

PROPS DESIGNER

VANESSA COOK

is the owner of Cook Theatre Designs, LLC, a freelance design firm that serves Ohio theatre programs. She specializes in props, set dressing, and costumes for productions and special

events. She served as TD, designer and adjunct professor at Heidelberg University and is the former costume/set designer for Heidelberg's Community Music School. Ms. Cook currently works with several Cleveland-based theatre companies, most recently Spark Theatre 4 Youth, Near West, Dobama, Cleveland Opera Theatre, and Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute. She assists with local and regional HS productions teaching the next generation about technical theatre. Ms. Cook is the co-founder of the Norwalk Arts Center (NAC) and serves on the board of directors as Secretary as well as NAC's prop/set and costume mistress. BA: Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. MA: Regent University.



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AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

INTIMACY DIRECTOR

CASEY VENEMA

is a freelance intimacy choreographer, actor, director, and devising artist focused on bringing unheard narratives to the stage. She is an alumna of Bucknell University, where she graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Theatre and Film and Media Studies. Her career as an intimacy choreographer started in college with her own directing projects, and since then, she has choreographed for several theatres in Northeast Ohio including Dobama Theatre, Karamu House, Cleveland Play House, Seat of the Pants, Playwright's Local, and her own company, Nightbloom Theatre Co. She is absolutely ecstatic to be Dobama's first Resident Intimacy Choreographer. For more information about her artistic adventures, you can follow Casey on Instagram @caseyvenem8 and on her website: www.caseyvenema.com

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

JEREMY PAUL

is director, designer, and interdisciplinary artist. As the founder and Executive Artistic Director of Maelstrom Collaborative Arts since 2006, Jeremy has led the creation of the original productions *Four Futures*, *The Wandering*, *Inferno*, *Who We*

Used To Be, *Don't Wander Off*, *Broken Codes*, *The Turing Machine*, *The Grand Celebration of the Celestial Mystery*, *TingleTangle*, *Code: Preludes*, *The Excavation*, and *Marble Cities*. He has directed the world premieres of *Tall Skinny Cruel Cruel Boys*, *Black Cat Lost and My Barking Dog* as well as the regional premiere of *Inoculations*, *Anna Bella Eema*, and *Stranded on Earth*. He recently joined Cleveland Institute of Music as the inaugural Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence.

STAGE MANAGER

JOEL RATHBONE *

has been a freelance Stage Manager for over twenty years in Cleveland. He has managed productions for Playhouse Square, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Cleveland Shakespeare Company, and Lakeland College. He was grateful for the opportunity to manage Dobama's *Make Believe*, *The Other Place*, *Hand to God*, *The Nether*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Grounded*, *Sunset Baby*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Wakey Wakey*, *The Night Alive*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *The Call*, *The Norwegians*, *Superior Donuts*, and *Cock*. His other favorite productions around town have

DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS PROGRAM (DEAP)

JULY 2024



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been *Next to Normal* for Lakeland College and Ensemble's production of *The Normal Heart*. As always, he couldn't do it without the support of his friends and family, especially his wife Hester and his sons, Joel Wade and Felix.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

BEA SHAKOW

is a budding professional stage manager and a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, where she majored in theatre. She has experience as a stage manager, having worked on productions such as *Arcadia* (CWRU), *Spring Awakening: A Children's Tragedy* (Dobama), and *Alice Tierney* (Oberlin College). She is very happy to be working with Dobama again!

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

ANDY ZICARI

(he/him) is a proud Cleveland Heights native and graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory. He enjoys managing stages for schools and theatres across the Greater Cleveland area, from the Borderlight Fringe Festival in Playhouse

Square to Talespinner Children's Theatre in the Gordon Square district. He is excited and grateful to join the wonderful folk at Dobama for several shows this season: *AT THE WAKE...*, *SOMETHING CLEAN*, and *SIGNIFICANT OTHER*. Andy sends thanks to his parents, his ever-loving partner, and especially his kitten Alfalfa, who welcomes him home even when he returns from rehearsal so very late.

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER

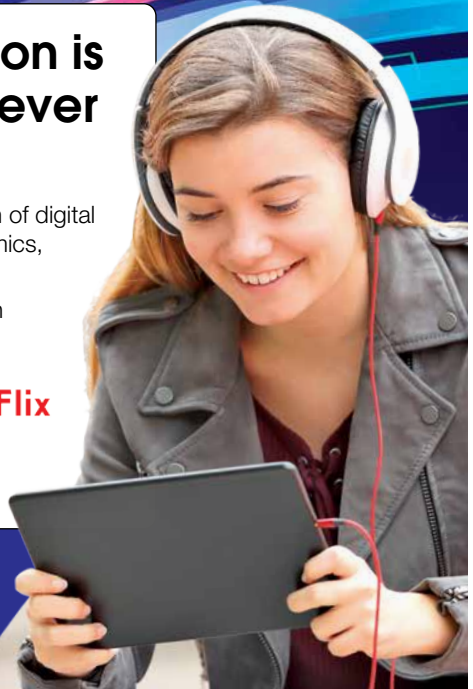
E.J. BUCKNER

is an emerging self-taught sound designer based in Cleveland, Ohio. Eric's passion for sound design has developed through experiencing the Broadway atmosphere, which inspired him to become more involved with sound in a theatric setting. Eric's aim is to bring about a dynamic blend of his personal experiences with the material world of sound and his world within. He is currently a student at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio, where he plans on obtaining a bachelor's degree.

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AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN

SCENIC PAINTER

JUSTINE SCHNEIDER

(she/they) is an artist from the Cleveland area. She has been Dobama's Resident Scenic Artist since 2016, painting almost all of their shows from then to now! You've likely also seen her work at venues such as Cain Park, Karamu House, Great Lakes Theater, and Chagrin Falls Academy. Being a member of IATSE Local 209, Justine also puts her scenic skills to use as a set painter for film. When Justine isn't painting sets, she sells pet portrait commissions, stickers, coloring pages, and other fun things on her site, [ko-fi.com/artistjustineschneider!](http://ko-fi.com/artistjustineschneider)

WARDROBE

LADY JEN RYAN

is beyond thrilled to return to Dobama. She has performed and worked from behind the curtain for over three decades. Lady Jen majored in

vocal performance and minored in musical theatre at Bowling Green State University. She is an operatically trained vocalist, a fully licensed cosmetologist, an experienced makeup artist, a proficient stylist, a skilled dresser, and a distinguished costume designer. Select design credits include *Addams Family*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Chess*, *Frankenstein 1930*, *Hair*, *Rocky Horror Show*, the Cleveland Premiere of *The Snow Queen*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Xanadu*. Select performances include *Applause*, *Cabaret*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Nine*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Scrooge!*, *Victor Victoria*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. Lady Jen would like to acknowledge her support system and theatre muses. LG, KJK, RB, RGS – TPOG - Special Thanks to Ms. Walker, My Beast, My Boo, My Jellyfish, My King – only you.

PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM

WHAT IS THE PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM?

The Playwrights' GYM is Dobama Theatre's playwrights' unit. The GYM is a program that provides local playwrights with the opportunity to workshop new work. GYM playwrights are area professionals who are given various resources to help further their work, including rehearsal space, collaboration with a director to assist the playwright, marketing and public events supported by the theatre. The GYM's goal is to nurture new work in a safe environment.

THE GYM HAS TWO PARTS

Full-length Readings: lightly staged readings of full plays are conducted in the theatre or in Dobama's 2nd Floor Arts Space. These are scheduled throughout the season.

GYM Shorts: a showcase of new short works or excerpts from full-length plays by GYM playwrights are read in an annual event usually in January or February.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Stuart Hoffman
Meredith L. King

Lisa Langford
Avery LaMar Pope
Claire Robinson May

Eric Schmiedl
Amy Schwabauer
Logan Cutler Smith

Greg Vovos
Rachel Zake

For more information, visit dobama.org.

DOBAMA STAFF

NATHAN MOTTA ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

is the 5th Artistic Director at Dobama Theatre, where he spurred Dobama's move to become an Equity Theatre. Select directing credits at Dobama include: *An Octoroon* (Best Director - Cleveland Critics Circle 2016), *The Flick* (Best Director - Cleveland Critics Circle 2017), *Stupid F**king Bird* (Best Director - Cleveland Critics Circle 2019), *Make Believe*, *Life Sucks*, *Appropriate*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Superior Donuts*, *A Bright New Boise*, *The Aliens*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Marie Antoinette*, *John*, and the World Premieres of *How to Be A Respectable Junkie* and *The Land of Oz*. A professional director, conductor, and composer/lyricist, he has worked with Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Baldwin Wallace University, Oberlin College, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Cain Park, Mercury Opera Rochester, and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh). Original musicals include *The Land of Oz* (composer; book and lyrics by George Brant), *Midsummer*, and *Little White Gloves*. Motta is a leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion work and a fierce advocate for safety and wellness practices for the theatre. He holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music. Member Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), the national theatrical union that unites, empowers and protects professional stage directors and choreographers throughout the United States.

COLIN ANDERSON DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

(he/him) has spent his life in Cleveland, which he now calls his artistic home as a director, producer, and intimacy choreographer. He is proud to be openly gay and a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ equity and access in the theatre industry and beyond. Directing credits include

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DOBAMA THEATRE

Significant Other (upcoming), *The Thin Place*, *The Soliloquy Project*, *She Washed His Hands*, *DEAP - Spring Awakening: A Children's Tragedy*, and multiple productions for the Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival (Dobama); *The Prom* (Near West); *Goodnight Tyler* (reading), *I'm Alive You Bastards* and *I Always Will Be* (Nightbloom Theatre Co); *The Inside Story* (Playwrights Local); *Beyond Therapy* (Access Theatre Project); *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Ordinary Days*, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, and *Next to Normal* (Oberlin College). Colin has also worked with Maelstrom Collaborative Arts, Cleveland Public Theatre, Harlequins Theatre, Olde Town Hall Theatre, Elyria Catholic High School, and BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival, where he acted as Assistant Producer during its founding. BA: Oberlin College. colintyleranderson.com

MARIAH BURKS

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

is a Cleveland, OH, native. Her work has mainly been seen at Cleveland Play House, where she was most recently set to play the titular role of Antigone pre-pandemic. Other credits include: *Little Women*, *Airness* (Dobama); *Breakfast at the Bookstore* (Karamu House); *Clue: A New Comedy* (The Cook); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne). An alumna of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program and a graduate of Bowling Green State University's Musical Theatre Program, Mariah was the recipient of the National Irene Ryan Acting Award at the Kennedy Center (ACTF) in Washington, DC. Other regional and local theatre work includes *Caroline, or Change* (Tantrum Theatre) and *RAGTIME* (Cain Park). Instagram: @magical_mariahb



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LENA CHAPIN

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

(she/her) is a lifetime theatre-goer and has been a Dobama Member since 2021. She comes to the role of Director of Advancement with over ten years of fundraising, networking, and development communications experience. Previously, Lena worked as the Director of Development at EDWINS Leadership Restaurant Institute, the Ignatian Solidarity Network, and Rose-Mary Center. Lena enjoys trail running, a good karaoke session, building relationships, and writing “thank you” notes. Please give at dobama.org/donate and allow her to write some more!

ERIN DOLAN

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

(she/her) is an Actor, Director, Educator, Playwright, and Poet based in Northeast Ohio. Originally from western Massachusetts, Erin spent her later childhood in Lorain County.

She studied theatre at Kent State University and Lorain County Community College, where she first discovered her great love for including children in the creative process. Her path led her to Houston, Texas, and later to Columbus and Akron, Ohio, where she focused solely on her work in Early Childhood Education for several years. In 2017, Erin returned to Cleveland to rejoin the exciting and dynamic arts community here. Erin has over twenty years of experience as a classroom educator, the last eight of which included administration. She is the co-founder of Awesome Possum Theatre Company as well as Stratosphere, a performing arts collective. Erin was most recently heard onstage as the voice of Val Fuego in *Web of Deceit* (Stratosphere/BorderLight Festival), an illustrated radio play. Recent directing credits include *James and the Giant Peach* (LCCC/Spark Theatre 4 Youth collaboration), *Cupid & Psyche* (Stratosphere), *Burst of Thought* (Cleveland Public Theatre’s Pandemonium). Also a playwright, Erin has been commissioned to adapt children’s classics for The Illusion Factory in Akron, Talespinners Children’s Theatre in Cleveland and, most recently, Spark Theatre 4 Youth in Elyria, Ohio. Erin is a proud and vocal advocate for artists and educators. She strives to nurture in all children, artists, and audiences an enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation for their own imaginations.

ELISE KUKLINCA

CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR

(she/they) began working at Dobama in 2015 in the box office before transitioning to the



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Patron Services Manager in 2018. In 2021, Elise became Connectivity Director, a role that encompasses fostering internal communication, connecting with artists, working with volunteers, and building deeper relationships with the greater community. Previously, Elise could be found in a myriad of places including La Jolla Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, The Carnegie and Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

AMY LIN WEAVER DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS

(she/her) came to Cleveland from the Washington, D.C. metro area, fell in love with the arts community here, and never left. Amy began her professional career as the inaugural house Stage Manager at the Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University before spending several years with progressive administrative responsibilities at Cleveland

Public Theatre, concluding as their Finance Manager. Her theatre production credits include sound design and stage management roles with Cleveland Public Theatre, the CWRU Footlighters, Players' Theatre Group, Wildwood Summer Theatre, and Damascus Theatre Company. Outside of her theatre operations, finance, and development work, Amy enjoys restoring old houses, skiing, and baking.

CARRIE WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

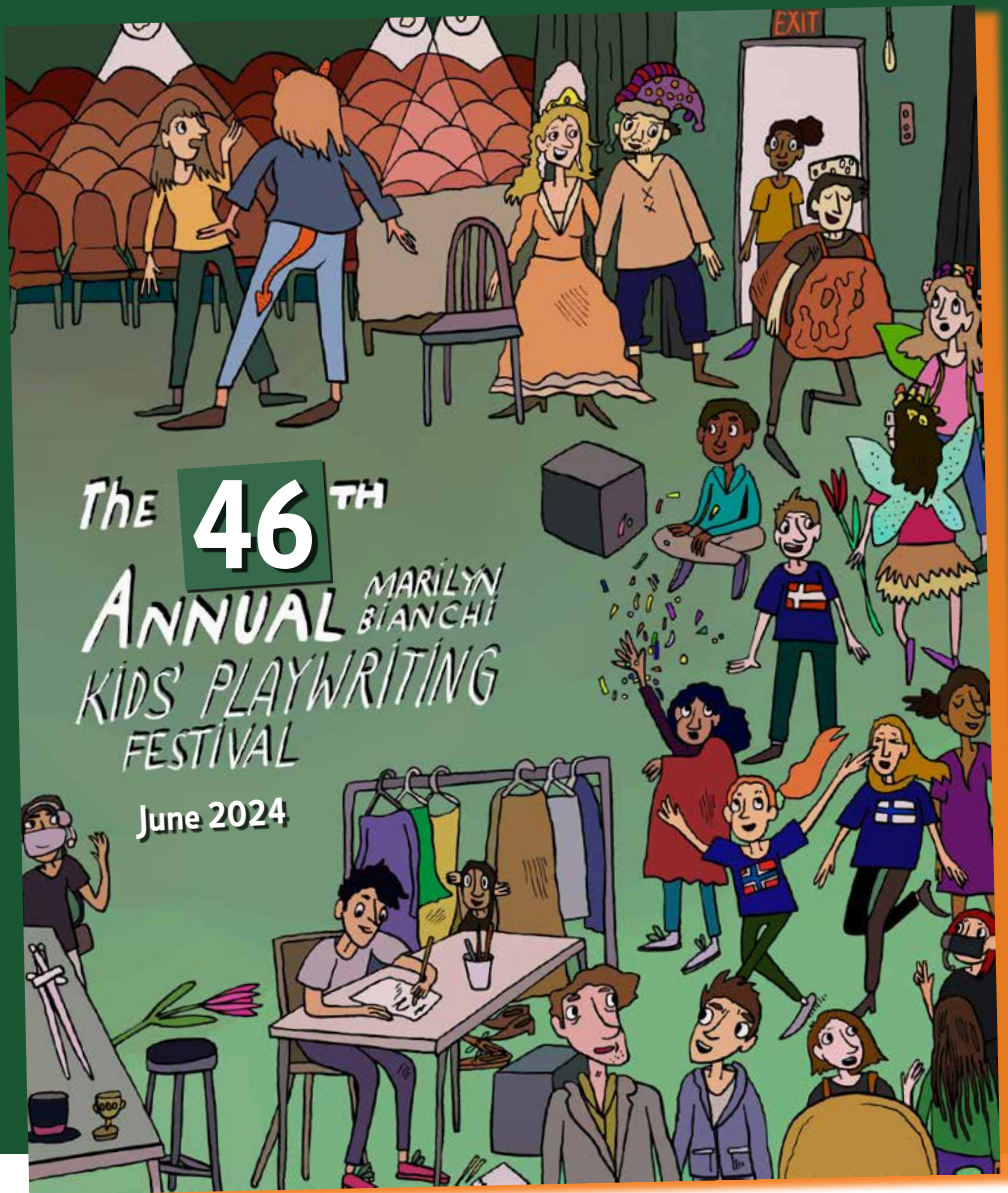
(she/they) is a performer, director, scenic artist, and a fierce arts education advocate. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Bowling Green State University, she moved to Cleveland to join Great Lakes Theater's acclaimed School Residency Program as an Actor-Teacher. She has taught and created programming for a multitude of organizations, including Playhouse Square, Ensemble Theatre, French Creek Theatre, Brecksville Theatre on the Square, Fairmount Center for the Arts, Hawken School, and Talespinner Children's Theatre. Her artistic pedagogy focuses on exploring collaborative processes, fostering creativity, and empowering youth to step outside their comfort zones. Here she coordinates the Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, the longest-running celebration of young playwrights in the United States.



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