

DOBAMA THEATRE

PRESENTS

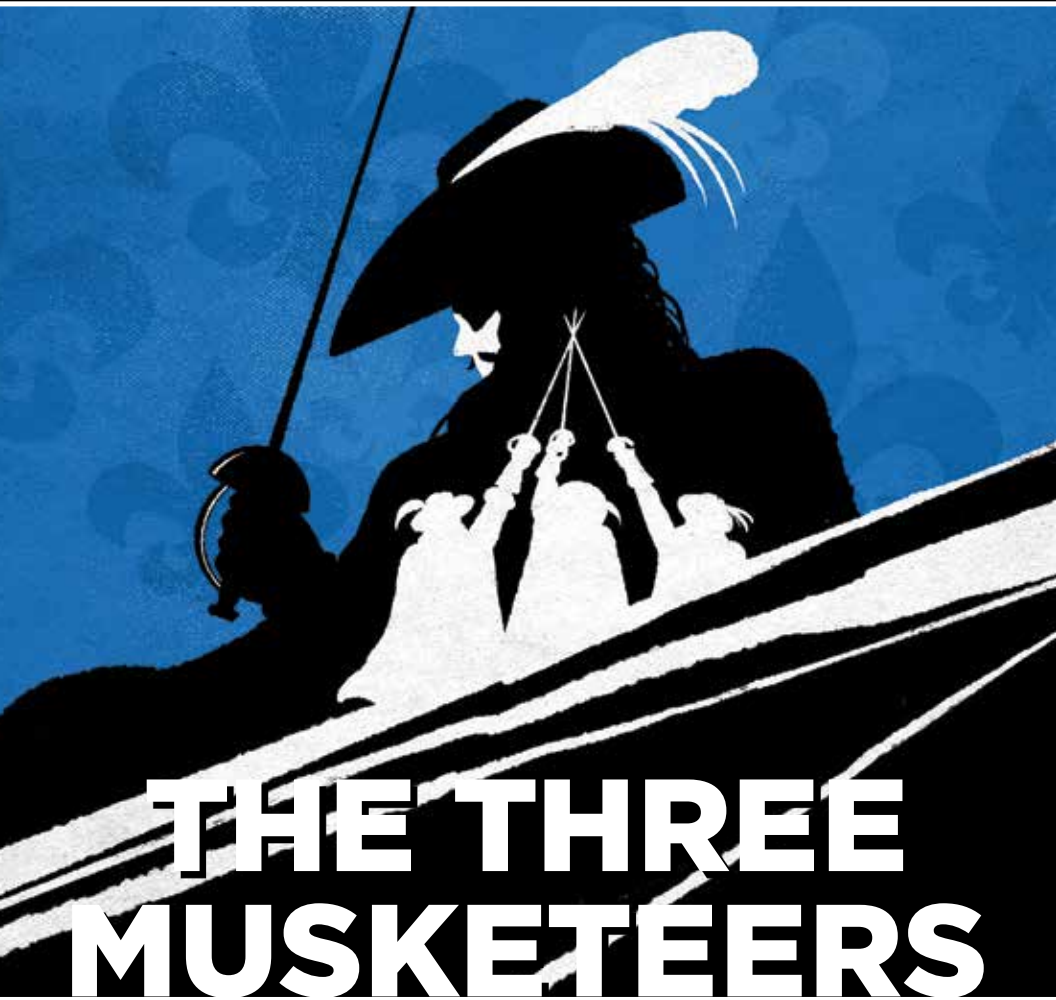


LIFE SUCKS

Written By **Aaron Posner**
Directed By **Nathan Motta**

APRIL 22 - MAY 22, 2022





THE THREE MUSKETEERS

APR 30 – MAY 22 | ALLEN THEATRE

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directed by LAURA KEPLEY | fight direction by ROD KINTER*

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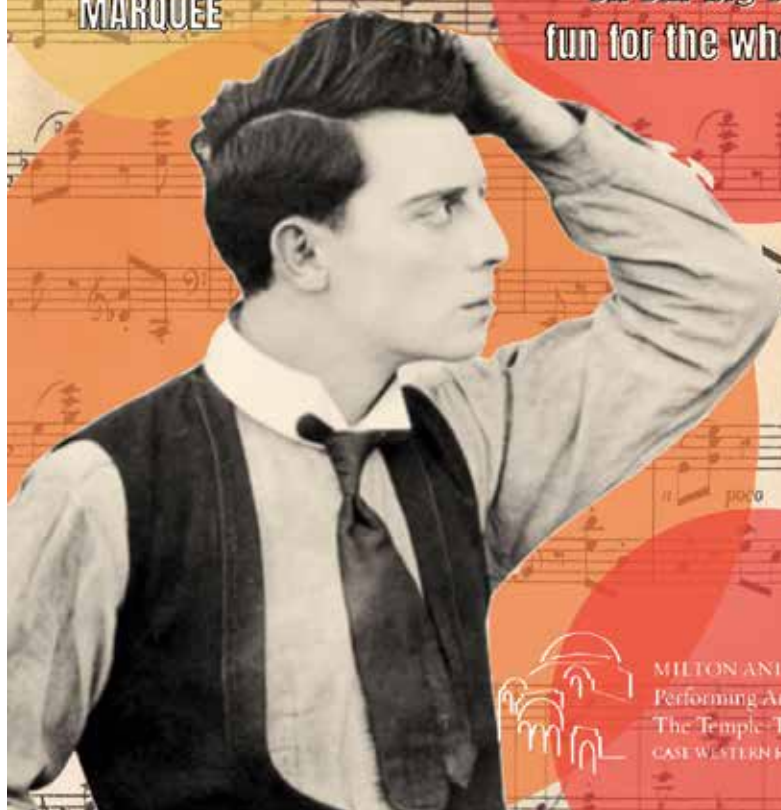
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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



In March 2020 life sucked. People around the world were driven into isolation, separated from friends and family, lives and livelihoods. Loved ones were lost to this new coronavirus that at the time we knew

very little about. Hospitals were overtaxed, and heroes among us risked their own well-being to transport, treat, and care for the sick. Businesses were shuttered, important life events put on hold, and the ripple effects of quarantine had a lasting impact on the mental and emotional health for many. Yeah, life sucked.

Yet, sometimes periods of devastating hardship can also help uncover new directions for our lives and illuminate what is most dear to us.

In the past two years many have reexamined work culture with some choosing new careers or prioritizing people over profits. For many, their circle of friends became more concentrated, deepening relationships and valuing those closest. Some of us found ways to slow down, took time to rest, and discovered a new appreciation for the natural world. And as a collective society we decided that we could no longer put off directly dealing with some of the institutional injustices that are woven into the fabric of American life. When life sucked most, it opened our eyes to the most important things, and all we have to be grateful for.

LIFE SUCKS is a play that in some ways sets out to disprove its title. Yes, it's a play about loss, longing, the helplessness of unsolvable problems, and not getting what you want. But it's also a play about love, hope, and gratitude. Human beings can be ridiculous, walking contradictions lost in the "day-to-day-to-day horsesh*t". If we focus on what we've lost or can't have or can't fix, it can be overwhelming. But if we devour life with passion, take care of each other, and show gratitude for the truly important people and moments in our lives, then we can find contentment, joy, and beauty in this one little life we've been given.

We hope you enjoy this final production in Dobama Theatre 21/22 Reopening Season. It's been incredible to be able to bring live professional theatre back to audiences and we can't wait to show you what's in store for our 63rd year. None of this would be possible without you. So, as always, thank you for your humbling generosity and unwavering support. Enjoy the show!

With Love and Respect,

Nathan Motta

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



NATHAN MOTTA is the 5th Artistic Director at Dobama Theatre where he spurred Dobama's move to become the region's newest Equity Theatre and where he's directed critically acclaimed productions including 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*), APPROPRIATE, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, SUPERIOR DONUTS, A BRIGHT NEW BOISE, THE ALIENS, A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS: AN AMERICAN MUSICAL CELEBRATION, MARIE ANTOINETTE, JOHN, and the World Premiere of HOW TO BE A RESPECTABLE

JUNKIE. A professional director, conductor, and composer/lyricist, Motta has worked with Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Baldwin Wallace University, Oberlin College, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Cain Park, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Mercury Opera Rochester, and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh). Original musicals, include LITTLE WHITE GLOVES (an adaptation of the movie *All I Wanna Do*), MIDSUMMER (based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and THE LAND OF OZ (music; book and lyrics by George Brant). In 2010, Motta founded the Dobama Emerging Artists Program (DEAP), Dobama's elite summer acting program. 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.

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



AARON POSNER is an award-winning director, playwright, teacher, and former Artistic Director of Philadelphia's Arden Theatre and New Jersey's Two River Theatre. He has directed more than 150 productions at major regional theaters across the country including virtually every theatre in the DC area. As a playwright, his re-imagining of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, entitled *Stupid F**king Bird*, was one of the ten most produced plays in the country in 2015 and has had more than 150 productions worldwide. Other plays include *The Heal*, *JQA*, *Life Sucks*, *No Sisters*, *District Merchants*, *Who Am I This Time?* & *Other Conundrums of Love*, *The Chosen*, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, *The Gift of Nothing*, *Me...Jane: The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall*, and many more. He lives outside of D.C. with his wife, actress Erin Weaver, and his daughter, Maisie.

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For more information, visit dobama.org.

DOBAMA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
the Regional Premiere of

LIFE SUCKS.

BY AARON POSNER

DIRECTED BY NATHAN MOTTA

APRIL 22 - MAY 22, 2022

THE CAST

CHRIS BOHAN*
VANYA

ANDREW GORELL*
ASTER

CHENNELLE BRYANT-HARRIS
PICKLES

JOURDAN LEWANDA †
SONIA

STEVE MARVEL*
PROFESSOR

ANNE MCEVOY †
BABS

NICOLE SUMLIN*
ELLA

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
† Equity Membership Candidate



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



The Director is a member of the
STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS
SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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.

LIFE SUCKS. was first produced by Theater J at the Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater in Washington, D.C.

LIFE SUCKS. is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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



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Group

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Natha Motta

SCENIC DESIGNER

Brian Seckfort

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Marcus Dana

SOUND DESIGNER

Richard Ingraham

COSTUME DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

ASST. COSTUME

Shaun Dillon

PROPS DESIGNER

Andy Zicari

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Marcus Dana

PROJECTIONS

T. Paul Lowry

STAGE MANAGER

Rachel Twardzik*

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Elizabeth Cammett

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Kitty Wen

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Colin Anderson

SCENIC PAINTER

Justine Schneider

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

WEAPON CONSULTANT

Kevin Inouye

INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Casey Venema

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RESIDENT SOUND DESIGNER

Richard Ingraham

RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

RESIDENT PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

RESIDENT SCENIC ARTIST

Justine Schneider

RESIDENT STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

RESIDENT ASSISTANT

STAGE MANAGER

Elizabeth Cammett

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Jamie Cohen-Kiraly

(Technical)

Kitty Wen (Stage

Management)

Andy Zicari (Production)

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Barbara Hill-Newby

Bill Newby

Jennifer Stapleton

*Indicates new board members for the 21/22 Season

CAST



CHRIS BOHAN

(VANYA) is proud to be back on the Dobama stage. Previous Dobama roles include: Brian in HOW TO BE A RESPECTABLE JUNKIE, Sam in THE FLICK, Black Stache in PETER

AND THE STARCATCHER, Sterling in SLOWGIRL and Curtis in THE LYONS. Currently, Chris teaches acting & movement at CWRU, and is an Artistic Associate with the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. He is a founding member of Cleveland's longest running improvisational comedy company, Something Dada, and was a regular performer until 2003. He left Cleveland in 2004 for Detroit where he received his MFA in Performance from Wayne State University. As a graduate student, he had the opportunity to travel to Russia to study at the Moscow Art Theater School. Before returning home, he was working in the Philadelphia area as an actor, director, teacher and playwright. He is a proud graduate of Saint Ignatius High School and Lehigh University, and a member of the Actor's Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA. Other local credits include: Mamai Theater Company - ARCADIA as Bernard Nightingale, The Beck Center - THE PITMEN PAINTERS as Oliver Kilbourn, Great Lakes Theater - HAMLET as Reynaldo.



ANDREW GORELL

(ASTER) is happy to return to Dobama after two raucous years as Smee in PETER AND THE STARCATCHER. He performed as Zazu in the National Tour of DISNEY'S THE LION

KING. Regionally, he has performed at the Cleveland Play House, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, American Shakespeare Center, Charleston Stage, and Glimmerglass Opera; and locally at Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Beck Center, and Seat of the Pants. Film and TV appearances include roles in ABC's DOWNWARD DOG, MY FRIEND DAHMER, and THE BYE BYE MAN. As a film director and producer, he has screened multiple films at Cleveland International Film Festival, including ON A TECHNICALITY and BENCHWARMERS, both with g2h films. Andrew is a graduate of the CWRU/CPH MFA Program. Thrilled to have Jennie and Rune along with him on this adventure.



CHENNELLE BRYANT-HARRIS

(PICKLES) is originally from Brooklyn, NY is an actor, director, and teaching artist who received her B.A. in both History and Theatre at

Gettysburg College. Recent work includes 44 Plays for 44 Presidents at Cleveland Public Theatre, Olivia in Twelfth Night (As Told By Malvolio), Oberon in A Midsummer Night's

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.

Dream, and various roles in productions with Karamu House, Talespinner Children's Theatre, Ensemble Theatre and Rubber City Theatre.



JOURDAN LEWANDA †
(SONIA) is thrilled to be back after making her Dobama Theatre debut in *The Old Man and the Old Moon*. CHICAGO:

Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negroes

(Upcoming: Story Theatre), *2 unfortunate 2 travel* (Prop Thtr), *Indecent* (Victory Gardens Theater u/s), *May Day* (Rhinofest). REGIONAL: *Pinocchio*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Jungle Book* (Peterborough Players). READINGS: *The Enchanted* (Book by John Kander and Greg Pierce), *COWBOY PLAY* (Interrobang Theatre Project). FILM: *Widows* (Dir. Steve McQueen), *I Guess I'm Talking About This Now* (Self, Writer).

EDUCATION: Oberlin College, NTI at Moscow Art Theatre School. jourdanlewanda.com



STEVE MARVEL

(PROFESSOR) has recently returned to his native Midwest after a two-decade career in Los Angeles, where his film roles included turns opposite Michael Shannon in *Shriver*

and both Harry Lennix and Robert Patrick in *Troubled Watters*, and where he starred in the cult favorite *Chompy and the Girls*. On stage, he played Tom Sargeant in the West Coast premiere of David Hare's *Skylight* (Chance Theater, Anaheim); the director, Al Manners in Alice Childress's *Trouble in Mind* (directed by Harry Lennix); and he made up part of the original cast of *The Gospel According to*

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Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and *Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord* at the Geffen Playhouse. An accomplished audiobook narrator, Steve's voicings have earned four Voice Arts Award Finalist nominations and a coveted Audiofile Magazine Earphones Award for his rendition of Turgenev's classic *A Sportsman's Notebook*. LIFE SUCKS also marks a homecoming in other ways for Steve. Kent State's Porthouse Theatre awarded him his first role in area theatre, choosing him to play Scopes in its 1992 production of *Inherit the Wind*. And in that same production, he had the great fortune to meet his future wife, Angeline. They currently live outside the city with two demanding mutts.



ANNE MCEVOY †
(BABS) is grateful to be working with this beautiful artistic team and to be back onstage at Dobama where she was last seen in *DANCE NATION*. Elsewhere, Anne's performed at The

Beck Center, Blank Canvas, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Ensemble, Great Lakes Theatre, Karamu, Mamai, Ohio Shakespeare, Seat of the Pants Theatre, and None Too Fragile where she'll be appearing

later this season in *NIGHT MOTHER*. Thank you for believing in LIVE theatre!



NICOLE SUMLIN
(ELLA) is an actor, singer, director, writer, producer, and educator. She is honored to return to the Dobama stage after her run as Elizabeth Keckley in *A Civil War Christmas*.

NYC performances: *Medusa (Medusa)*, *Zu (Project Tiresias)*, *Judge Jill Joyce (How to Be a Winner)*, and *Columbiner (ReB+VoDkA+Me)*. Regional work includes performances at Beck Center for the Performing Arts, Cain Park, Cleveland Play House, Ensemble Theatre, Karamu House, Playhouse Square, Ohio Shakespeare Theatre, Tantrum Theatre, and others. She was named 2019 Best Actress in a Musical by the Cleveland Critics Circle (*Billie Holiday, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grille*, Beck Center). She serves as Education Director at Cleveland Public Theatre and is a member of the adjunct faculty for Baldwin Wallace University's Department of Theatre and Dance. She graduated from Wheaton College (IL) and studied voice at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music. She is thankful for God's grace and her family's love.

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

NATHAN MOTTA

(see About the Director)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SARA YOUNG

is a recent graduate of Case Western Reserve University where she studied Economics and Theatre. She is a copywriter with Brokaw, Inc. as well as a working voice actor and audiobook narrator. Recent credits include *THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT* (Fabiana Cunningham) with the Cleveland Playhouse and *STUPID FUCKING BIRD* (Mash) at Dobama.

SCENIC DESIGNER

BRIAN SECKFORT

is thrilled to be making his design debut with Dobama Theatre. Brian is currently pursuing his MFA in Scenic Design and Technology from Kent State University and is a proud graduate with a dual BFA in Performance and Technical Theatre from Florida Southern College. Selected regional scenic design credits include *Freaky Friday* at Kent State University, *Concord Floral* and *Athena* at The University of Akron, *All Shook Up* and *Constellations* for The Clinton Area Showboat Theatre and the world premier productions of *Love in Reserve* and *Heartbreakers in Hell* for



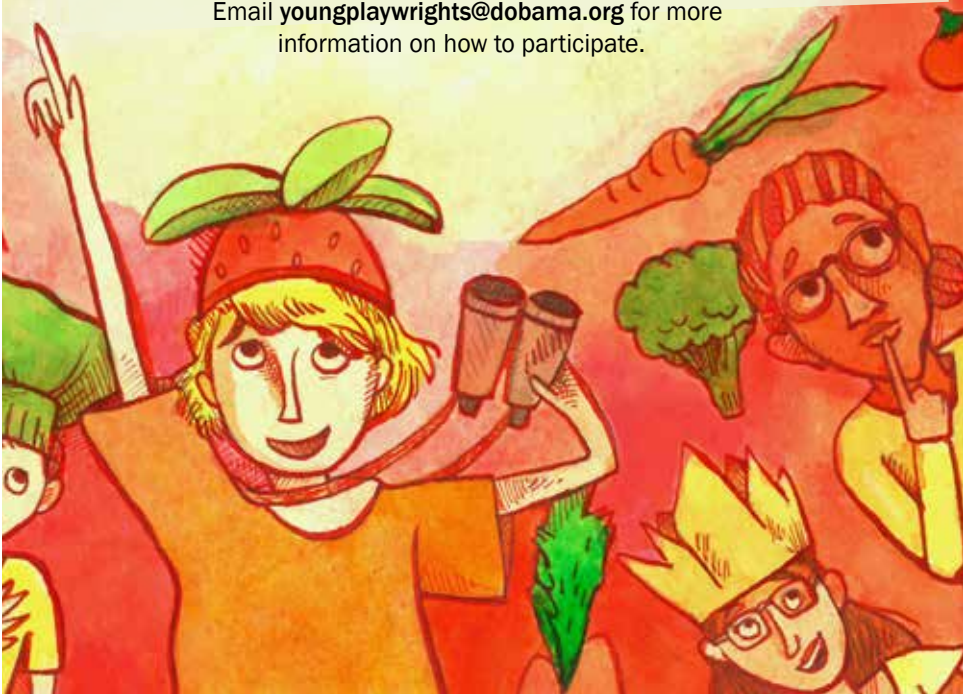
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THE 44th ANNUAL MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS' PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

Dedicated to the memory of Marilyn Bianchi (actress, director and a founding member of Dobama) and the first playwriting festival of its kind in the United States, this Dobama tradition continues its long history with the 44th Festival in June 2022!

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Email youngplaywrights@dobama.org for more information on how to participate.



Rubber City Theatre. Seckfort also serves as the Director of Artistic Operations at Rubber City Theatre. To see more of Brian's work visit www.brianseckfort.com

SCENIC PAINTER JUSTINE SCHNEIDER

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! Justine also freelances for other theatres such as Great Lakes Theater, Near West, Chagrin Falls Academy, and many more. She is also a member of IATSE Local 209, where she puts her scenic skills to use as a set painter for film. When Justine isn't painting sets, she creates pet portrait commissions and runs a monthly sticker club through her Patreon. To follow Justine on her various artistic endeavors, visit <https://linktr.ee/Artistjustineschneider!>

LIGHTING DESIGNER MARCUS DANA

has worked at Dobama Theatre since 2003 in various capacities including Technical Director and Lighting Designer. Recent shows are: HANSEL & GRETEL (Technical Director) with Nightingale Opera, LD Dance Concert: Design Dancing On The Edge, Cleveland School of Ballet THE NUTCRACKER. Previously Lighting includes: Tri-C East/Metro from 2000-2016 as Lighting Designer, Laurel School 2009-12,

Resident Lighting Designer at Near West Theatre from 2001-06, Guest LD at The Canton Players Guild 2005-11, Verlezza Dance 2004-10, Beck Center 1995-2000, including THE SECRET GARDEN, where he won the 1995-96 Peggy Ezekiel "Award of Outstanding Achievement", CSU Factory Theatre, Cassidy Theatre, Karamu House, Lake Erie College 1997-06, Willoughby Fine Arts Association, The Bang and The Clatter Theatre, Kalliope Stage, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Bonfils Theatre and The Changing Scene.

SOUND DESIGNER RICHARD INGRAHAM

first sound designed at Dobama Theatre just over 20 years ago. The Laramie Project, which opened the week of September 11, 2001. Since then, he has sound designed *Hand to God*, *Civil War Christmas*, *Middletown*, *Caroline or Change*, *Nightbloomers*, *A Number*, *10 Minutes from Cleveland* and *Ears on A Beatle*. Richard has worked at numerous theatres, schools and attractions in the Cleveland area and throughout the US including: Ashland University, Beck Center for the Arts, Baldwin-Wallace University, Cain Park, Carnegie-Mellon University, Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Academy, The Cleveland Play House, The Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland State University, The University of Evansville, Great Lakes Theater, Hope Summer

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Repertory Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Oberlin College, Playhouse Square Center, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Richard is a theatrical consultant and AV systems designer for About The Stage and has worked as a consultant to award winning software companies that create products for live event production including Stage Research and Richmond Sound Design.

PROJECTIONS

T. PAUL LOWRY

has served in artistic, production and design capacities with such companies as Long Wharf Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Karamu House, and Cleveland Public Theatre. T. Paul is the Technical Theatre Director at Hathaway Brown School. T. Paul is honored to be a Resident Designer for Dobama Theatre. Noted design work includes: *Egress* (Cleveland Play House), *Airness*, *Kill Move Paradise*, *brownsville*

song (b-side for tray), *Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars*, *Ella Enchanted*, *The Nether* (Dobama Theatre), *American Dreams*, *Rastus & Hattie* (Cleveland Public Theatre), *Black Nativity*, and *Greenwood* (Karamu House).
tpaulowry.com

PROPS DESIGNER

ANDY ZICARI

is a proud Cleveland Heights native and product of the fantastic performing arts programs in the CHUH school district. While earning a BA in Musical Studies at Oberlin College and Conservatory, he found his calling in stage management, and has worked on shows for Oberlin's Theatre Department and Opera Theatre Department, as well as for schools and theatres across the Greater Cleveland area. Andy sends his thanks to his parents, and to the wonderful folks at Dobama for the opportunity to work with them!

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

GYMreads: staged readings of full plays are conducted in the theatre. These are scheduled throughout the season.

GYMworks: a "showcase" where scenes from full length plays or shorter theatrical works by GYM playwrights are performed in an annual or bi-annual event.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Meredith King
Lisa Langford
Claire Robinson May
Avery Pope
Eric Schmiedl
Amy Schwabauer
Faye Sholiton
Logan Cutler Smith
Greg Vovos
Dr. Mary E. Weems
Rachel Zake

For more information, visit dobama.org.

STAGE MANAGER

RACHEL TWARDZIK*

is excited for their production with Dobama. They are a graduate of the University of Dayton in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Technical Theatre. They've worked for several theaters in Ohio, mostly as a stage manager but also as a light designer, a scenic carpenter and painter. Currently they are the Operations and Production Manager at Talespinner Children's Theatre. Some of their selected credits are reasons to be pretty and Jailbait at The Nerve in Dayton, Christmas Carol, Second City and Two Trains Running at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Coriolanus at Requiem Theatrical and MacBeth at Inbocca Performance.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

ELIZABETH CAMMETT

is a Cleveland native and 2014 graduate of Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Studies, with a focus in Stage Management. She has worked with several Northeast Ohio theaters, including Dobama Theatre, Seat of the Pants Productions, Playhouse Square, Talespinner Children's Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Players Guild Theatre, Lakeland Community College, Porthouse Theatre, Chagrin Arts, and Stagecrafters Youth Theatre. Elizabeth has worked in film and TV, both on-camera and as an agent behind the scenes, and participated in various area live events. Recent credits include

Macbeth, Dance Nation, The Old Man and the Old Moon, Wakey, Wakey, Smokefall, Vicky Velocity and the Star Strikers, The Nether, and John. For Dad, always.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

KITTY WEN

is a freelance Stage Manager around Northeast Ohio. She has recently completed her Disney College Program (DCP) Fall 2021. Previous credits include Karamu House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ohio City Theatre Project, Baldwin Wallace, and furthermore. We are glad to have her joining the Dobama family as the stage management intern for the 21/22 season. She is also sincerely grateful for her family's supporting every path artistically and spiritually.

INTIMACY DIRECTOR

INITCASEY 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, Seat of the Pants, Playwright's Local, and her own company, Nightbloom Theatre Co. She is absolutely



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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

COSTUME DESIGNER

TESIA DUGAN BENSON

Tesia is a Cleveland based Designer and Resident Costume Designer at Dobama Theatre. Recent designs include An Octoroon, Hand to God, Peter and the Starcatcher, Marie Antoinette, Superior Donuts, A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration, The Aliens and Time Stands Still for Dobama, Toxic Avenger, The Frogs and Smokey Joe's Café for Cain Park, Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea and Ancesta at Cleveland Public Theatre, and 'night Mother at The Beck Center. Tesia worked with Opera Cleveland as Costume Coordinator and designed the costumes for La Voix Humaine.

Other credits include designs for Apollo's Fire, Lakeland Civic Theater, Near West Theater, Keystone Repertory Theater, Baldwin Wallace University, BIOLA University in La Mirada California, Cleveland State University, Cleveland City School District All City Musical, and Laurel School. She also serves as draper for the Baldwin-Wallace University Costume Shop and Adjunct Faculty teaching Stage Makeup. Tesia holds her M.F.A. in Costume Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

WARDROBE MANAGER

LADY JEN RYAN

is beyond thrilled to return to Dobama. She has performed and worked from behind the curtain for over three decades. She 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, an



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accomplished dresser/stylist and a distinguished costume designer. Lady Jen would like to acknowledge her support system and theatre muses. LG, RB, RGS, - Special Thanks to Ms. Walker, My Beast, My Boo, My King – only you.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

COLIN ANDERSON
(SEE DOBAMA STAFF)

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER/WEAPONS CONSULTANT

KEVIN INOUE
is a Society of American Fight Directors Certified Teacher and Theatrical Firearms Instructor who teaches Movement, Acting, & Stage Combat

at Case Western Reserve and the CWRU/ Cleveland Playhouse MFA Acting Program. He is an award-winning fight choreographer, author of *The Theatrical Firearms Handbook* (2014), and *The Screen Combat Handbook* (2020), and provides prop weaponry through Fight Designer, LLC. In addition to working locally with Cleveland Playhouse, Karamu House, Cleveland Public Theatre, and others, previous Dobama shows have included *33 1/2*, *Stupid F*cking Bird*, and *The Nether*.

DOBAMA STAFF

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 administrator. 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 *Your Final Night Alive*, *The Soliloquy Project - Significant Other*, *She Washed His Hands*, *Spring's*

Awakening (DEAP, upcoming), *Unicorn Lost in NYC* (Dobama); *I'm Alive You Bastards and I Always Will Be* (Nightbloom Theatre Co); *The Inside Story* (Playwrights Local); *The Last Five Years* (upcoming - Olde Town Hall); *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 Cleveland Public Theatre, Harlequins Theatre, Elyria Catholic



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High School, and BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival, where he acted as Assistant Producer during its founding. He is the Co-Founding Artistic Director of Nightbloom Theatre Company, Cleveland's theatre focused on stories of women and LGBTQ+ folks and a partner of Studio West. BA: Oberlin College. colintyleranderson.com Email: canderson@dobama.org

MARIAH BURKS DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

is a Cleveland, OH native. For the past 20 years she has collaborated with many theaters across greater Cleveland and more. As an actress, singer, director, and educator she thrives to gain even more versatility. Her work has mainly been seen at Cleveland Play House, where she is currently playing the titular role of Antigone. Other credits include: *Clue: A New Comedy* (The Cook); *The 25th Annual Putnam County*

Spelling Bee (Logainne) and more. An alumni 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: *AIRNESS* (Dobama Theatre), *Caroline, or Change* (Tantrum Theatre) and *RAGTIME* (Cain Park). Instagram: @magical_mariahb Email: mariahb@dobama.org

ELISE KUKLINCA CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR

began working at Dobama in 2015 in the box office before transitioning to the 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



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community. Previously, Elise could be found in myriad places including La Jolla Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, The Carnegie and Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis. Email: elisek@dobama.org

NATHAN MOTTA
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

is the 5th Artistic Director in Dobama Theatre's 60-year history, where he's directed productions of *The Flick* (2017 Best Director- Cleveland Critics Circle), *An Octoroon* (2016 Best Director- Cleveland Critics Circle), *Stupid Fucking Bird* (2019 Best Director- Cleveland Critics Circle), *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, *Ella Enchanted*, *This, Appropriate*, *John, Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Superior Donuts*, *A Bright New Boise*, *The Lyons*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Aliens*, *A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration*, *Marie Antoinette*, and the World Premiere of *How To Be A Respectable Junkie*. A professional director, conductor, and composer/lyricist, Motta has worked with Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Oberlin College, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Baldwin Wallace University, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Cain Park, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Mercury

Opera Rochester (NY), and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh). He is the Founding Artistic Director of the Dobama Emerging Artists Program (DEAP), Dobama's elite summer acting program. He has written two original musicals, *Little White Gloves* and *Midsummer*. He holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music. Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), the national theatrical union that unites, empowers and protects professional Stage Directors and Choreographers throughout the United States. Email: nmotta@dobama.org

DARIUS STUBBS
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

is a poet, playwright, performer, vocalist and educator who has been living and working in Cleveland, OH since 2006. He has collaborated with many creative thinkers across the city in the creation of over a dozen original performance pieces spanning the genre spectrum from performance art to fully-staged production at local theatres including Cleveland Public Theatre and Near West Theatre. Darius has been a featured speaker in an array of venues and events, including TedXCle 2015 "Untold" series, City Club of Cleveland's Forum on Transgender Identity in Northeast Ohio, CPT's Station Hope and Guide to Kulchur's

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“Uncanny Voices” series. Darius has also been highlighted among Scene Magazine’s “Cleveland People” series, and was awarded the Greater Cleveland Community Shares Rising Activist Award in 2016. He is also the Vice Chair of the board of TransOhio, a non-profit dedicated to education and advocacy in order to better the lives of transgender Ohioans. Email: dstubbs@dobama.org


CARRIE WILLIAMS

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

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 Theatre’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 zone. Here she coordinates the Marilyn Bianchi Kids’ Playwriting Festival, the longest-running celebration of young playwrights in the United States. Email: carrie@dobama.org



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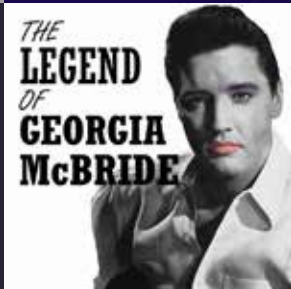
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