DOBAMA THEATRE





THE LAND OF OZ

Books & Lyrics By George Brant

Music By Nathan Motta

Directed By Nathan Motta

DECEMBER 2 - 31, 2022















PASSION AND PURPOSE IN EVERY PERFORMANCE



FEB 4 - 26 | ALLEN THEATRE

by CHARLY EVON SIMPSON | directed by STORI AYERS

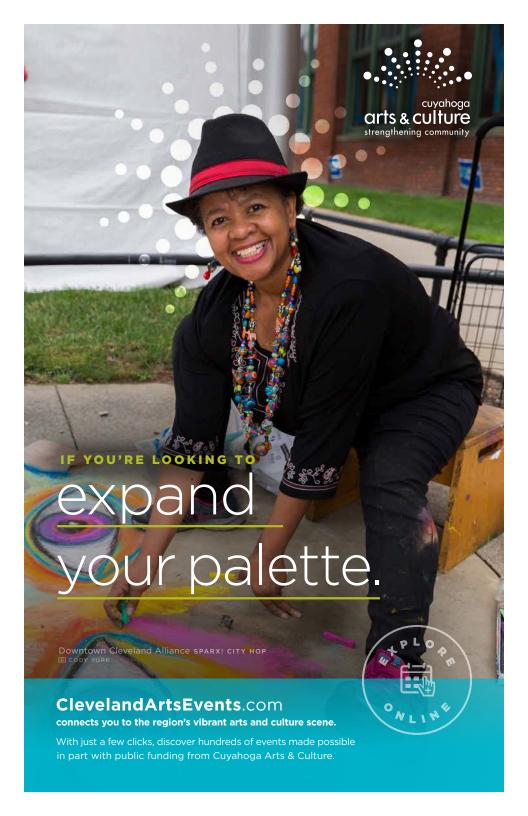
Inspired by Cleveland's past, present, and future, I'm Back Now is a poignant family drama that transcends time and space. At 19, Sara travels to Cleveland to meet her birth mother Elle. As she strives to reconcile the legacy she thought she knew with her actual origins, Sara discovers that she is a descendant of Sara Lucy Bagby, the last woman ever prosecuted under the Fugitive Slave Act. Traveling through time from the 1860s to today, the play weaves together three generations of one Black family in a deeply felt meditation on the histories we carry.

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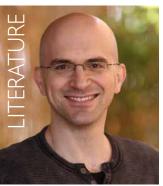
Roe Green, Honorary Producer













For updates join the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection Facebook group or visit jewishcleveland.org/israelarts

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The first time I read George Brant's adaptation of *The Land of Oz*, I was blown away. The story was relatable, relevant, and timely on so many levels; surely this couldn't be the same narrative from L. Frank

Baum's novel published in 1904. But, while George had made some smart and necessary creative adjustments, I was surprised to find the core of the story was the same as the one written over 100 years prior. I was immediately convinced this had to be brought to life on stage.

Oz is a treasured part of our culture. Whether your touchpoint is L. Frank Baum's books, the timeless MGM film, the classic musical *The Wiz*, or the modern hit *Wicked*, everyone has spent some time in the Emerald City. That's no surprise. It's a wonderful and magical place. Oz is a world of friendship and joy where those who feel alone find family. Whether it's a girl from Kansas who can't get home, a boy from the country who doesn't know where he comes from, or a Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion who feel incomplete - everyone finds friends eager to help them on their journey.

Ozian heroes may look different on the outside, or feel different on the inside, but no matter who

they are, they quickly find friendship, empathy, acceptance, and support. And though a witch may stand in their way, their goal isn't to slay a monster, but rather to feel complete and to find their way home. This marvelous new musical is created in that spirit and it's our wish that it becomes another treasured adventure to The Land of Oz for you and those you love.

We hope you find this journey to *The Land of Oz* as meaningful, moving, and joyful as we all have felt putting it together. It's our hope that amid the jokes, dancing, music, and theatre magic, you'll also find significance in the many ideas wrapped inside.

Thank you for being here. If you're able, please consider making a year-end gift as we continue to slowly recover from the interruptions of the past two and a half years. We're grateful for your support, now and always. From the cast, crew, creative team, and everyone at Dobama Theatre, we wish you and yours peace, hope, love, and joy this holiday season.

With Love and Respect.

Nathan Motta

THE STONE OVEN

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR/COMPOSER



NATHAN MOTTA (he/him) 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. Email: nmotta@dobama.org



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST



GEORGE BRANT plays include Grounded, Elephant's Graveyard, Marie and Rosetta, Into the Breeches!, Grizzly Mama, Good on Paper, The Mourners' Bench, Salvage, Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile, Any Other Name, Defiant, Dark Room, Miracle: A Tragedy, Ashes, NOK, The Lonesome Hoboes, All Talk, One Hand Clapping, The Royal Historian of Oz, Lovely Letters, Three Men in a Boat, Borglum! The Mount Rushmore Musical, Tights on a Wire and Night of the Mime.

Brant's work has been produced internationally by such companies as the Public Theater, Trinity Repertory Company, The Atlantic Theater Company, Cleveland Play House, The Alley Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory, City

Theatre, Gate Theatre of London, Page 73, Studio Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Traverse Theatre, Borderlands Theater, SF Playhouse, American Blues Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Red Stitch, Theatre 4, Premiere Stages, Trustus Theatre, Elemental Theatre Collective, Balagan Theatre, the Drama League, the Disney Channel, Factory Theatre, StreetSigns Theatre Company, and zeppo theater company, among others.

His plays have been generously developed by the Metropolitan Opera, the Kennedy Center, The Playwrights' Center, Asolo Rep, McCarter Theatre Center, New Harmony Project, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, WordBRIDGE Playwright's Lab, InterAct Theatre, Theatre @ Boston Court, Playwright and Director Center of Moscow, Florida Studio Theatre, New Jersey Rep, Contemporary Drama Festival of Hungary, the Hangar Theatre, Equity Library Theatre, and Ground UP Productions, among others. His scripts have been awarded a Lucille Lortel Award, an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, the David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center, the Smith Prize, the Keene Prize for Literature, an NNPN Rolling World Premiere, a Scotsman Fringe First Award, an Off-West End Theatre Award for Best Production, a Theatre Netto Festival Prize, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, an Austin Critic's Circle Best New Play Award and three Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Awards.

He has received writing fellowships from the James A. Michener Center for Writers, the McCarter Theatre Sallie B. Goodman Artist's Retreat, the MacDowell Colony, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, the Hermitage Artists' Retreat and the Blue Mountain Center as well as commissions from the Metropolitan Opera, Trinity Repertory Company, Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre and Theatre 4.George received his MFA in Writing from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin and is a member of the Dramatists Guild. He is published by Samuel French, Oberon Books, Fisher Verlage and Smith & Kraus.



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DOBAMA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS the World Premiere of

THE LAND OF OZ

A MUSICAL ADAPTATION OF THE BOOK BY L. FRANK BAUM **BOOK & LYRICS BY GEORGE BRANT**

MUSIC & DIRECTED BY NATHAN MOTTA MUSICAL DIRECTION BY MATTHEW DOLAN CHOREOGRAPHY BY GREGORY DANIELS

DECEMBER 2 -31, 2022

— THE CAST -

JORDYN FREETAGE TIP ERIC FANCHER† JACK THE

PUMPKIN HEAD

FABIO POLANCO* SCARFCROW JASON ENO* TIN MAN **NEELY GEVAART.....JINJUR** TRINIDAD SNIDER..... MOMBI **DAR'JON BENTLEY....** LION

TREY GILPIN WOGGLE BUG LANA SUGARMAN..... GLINDA/JELLIA/LT.

TIM KEO WINKIE/DOOR/

THRONE MIA RENARD TIP U/S

SARAH BLUBAUGH. SWING (FEM) CONNOR STOUT SWING (MASC)

*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



THIS PLAY WILL BE PERFORMED WITH ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

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

THE LAND OF OZ IS A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL. THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR/COMPOSER

Nathan Motta

LYRICIST/PLAYWRIGHT

George Brant

CHOREOGRAPHER

Gregory Daniels

STAGE MANAGER

Tom Humes*

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Barbara Kozlov

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Elizabeth Cammett ASST. DIRECTOR

Andrew Bidwell

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Matthew Dolan

ASST, MD/Keyboard

Rachel Woods

GUITAR

Jesse Fishman

BASS

Time Keo

RFFD

R.I Rovito

PERCUSSION

Justin Hart

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Marcus Dana

PROJECTIONS/SCENIC

T. Paul Lowry

SCENIC PAINTER

Jamie Cohen-Kiraly

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Dave Stoughton

SOUND DESIGNER

Richard Ingraham

SOUND TECHNICIAN

Jordan Demich-Bogner

COSTUME DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Colin Anderson

PRODUCTION ASST.

Esma Eddeb

PRODUCTION ASST.

Andy Zicari

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Nathan Motta

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DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

RESIDENT PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

RESIDENT SCENIC ARTIST

Justine Schneider

RESIDENT STAGE

MANAGER Joel Rathbone*

RESIDENT ASSISTANT SM

Elizabeth Cammett

BOX OFFICE STAFF

Evelyn Lindrose Owen Schneider

INTERNS

Esma Eddeb (Directing) Cali Parey (Directing)

Michael Glavan(Directing)

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.

CAST



JORDYN FREETAGE (TIP) is honored to be making her Dobama Debut in THF LAND OF O7. She is a fifteen year old sophomore at Jackson School for the

Arts, as well as an Equity Member Candidate. Some of her past theatre

credits include SHREK (Young Fiona 2018, Teen Fiona 2019/ Beck Center), DESCENDANTS (Mal/ Mercury Theatre Company), LITTLE WOMEN (Jo March/ Helen Todd Vocal Studio), SCHOOL OF ROCK (Summer Hathaway/ Weathervane Playhouse), ELF THE MUSICAL (Teen Girl, Ensemble/ Beck Center), THE GREAT GATSBY (Jordan Baker/ Caryl Crane Youth Theatre), LES MISERABLES (Cosette/ Caryl Crane YT), SHREK (Ugly Duckling, Teen Fiona, Featured Dancer/ Players Guild). @ iordynfreetage



ERIC FANCHER (JACK THE PUMPKIN HEAD) feels incredibly lucky to be counted among this immensely talented group of artists. Though making his debut at Dobama, this is his 75th production in Northeast Ohio, Recent

credits include Something Rotten! (Nick Bottom) at Beck Center for the Arts, Assassins (Booth) and Merrily We Roll Along (Frank) at Lakeland Civic Theatre, The Music Man: In Concert (Harold Hill) and Godspell at Cain Park, and The Texas Chainsaw Musical! (Steven) and Evil Dead: The Musical (Ash) at Blank Canvas Theatre. In addition, he frequently performs with The Musical Theater Project at various venues around the city, and is the founder and webmaster of Cleveland Stage Alliance, a website providing comprehensive information regarding all locally-produced theatre in the NEO region. He is a cancer survivor, and an Equity Membership Candidate. Thank you to mom and dad. Much love to Sarah and the fur. babies.



FABIO POLANCO*

(SCARECROW) has previously appeared at Dobama Theatre in MIDDLETOWN, Recently, he directed In Pieces: A New Musical by Joey Contreras in conjunction with the composer/ lyricist, and facilitated

Creando Teatro for Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center in Cleveland. Other credits include the Broadway national tour of Les Misérables, and roles at Brooklyn Academy of Music, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, McCarter Theatre,

DOBAMA THEATRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Spencer Caress Joyce Casey Artistic Director **Emerita** Joel Hammer Artistic Director **Emeritus** Maurice Heller Barbara Hill-Newby Bill Newby Jennifer Stapleton

*indicates new board members for the 21/22 Season



Signature Theatre, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Musical Theatre Project, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Porthouse Theatre, Cleveland Musical Theatre, Cain Park, Dobama Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and numerous film and television credits. Fabio holds an M.F.A. from Case Western Reserve University. He is an associate professor of theatre at Kent State University, and has been a member of Actors' Equity Association since 1996.



JASON ENO*

(TIN MAN) s ecstatic to make his Dobama debut in 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: SWEENEY TODD (Rubber City Theatre) LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE (Beck Center) BLUESMAN (Breen Center) 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!



NEELY GEVAART

(JINJUR) s very excited to be returning to the Dobama stage in this new work. She was last seen at Dobama Theatre as Olive in ELLA ENCHANTED. Some of her favorite past shows are: Violet, We Will Rock You, Texas

Chainsaw Musical!, Merrily We Roll Along and



The arts create jobs,

strengthen education,

and connect communities.

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The Spitfire Grill. All my love to my HUSBAND Christopher and to Taco.



TRINIDAD SNIDER

(MOMBI) is the Artistic Director at Near West Theatre. Her excellence as an artist also was developed through education at the Cleveland School of Performing Arts and Conservatory of Music at the University

of Cincinnati, as well as extensive work as a director and performer in the Northeast Ohio community, including experience directing adults, teens, and children. Most recently, she served as a Teaching Artist with The Musical Theater Project, where she taught the Kids Love Musicals and Intergenerational programs, and helped to create and facilitate the Creative Aging Program focused on seniors and the arts. She served as the Business Director for The Memorial Opera House in Indiana and has held

many roles in Human Resources and customer service for Marriott and InterContinental Hotels. She resides in Chardon with her husband Michael and their four wonderful children.



DAR'JON BENTLEY

(LION) has appeared in several theatrical and film productions around Cleveland and Pittsburg Area. You may have seen him recently as "Camper #1" in American Rust on Showtime Channel or streaming service,

"OSO the Brindle Pitbull" in Cleveland Public Theatre's 10 Minutes to Midnight, "Chuck DM Biggs", "Pontius Pilate", "Dorante", and "Eddie Carbone" in She Kills Monsters, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, The Critique of The School, and A View From The Bridge at Baldwin Wallace University. When Dar'Jon is not on the stage you can find him behind the camera filming various film projects with his production company "Bleak

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 PLAYWRIGHTS

Christopher Johnston 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

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.

For more information, visit dobama.org.



Forest Productions". A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dar'Jon can be found teaching with Cleveland Playhouse as a teaching artist in the CMSD school district. Dar'Jon can be reached at darjon.m.bentley@gmail.com or his Instagram @ iamdarjonbentley! Enjoy the show and remember "all you need is a little courage to get to where your going!"



TREY GILPIN

(WOGGLE BUG) is excited be back at Dobama Theatre after making his Dobama debut last season in "Airness"! A Kentucky native, Trey moved to Cleveland fifteen years ago after working at the Roundabout Theatre

Company in New York City. Since then, he's appeared at Cain Park, Beck Center for the Arts, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Blank Canvas Theatre, and more. Favorite shows include Merrily We Roll Along

(Charley), The Importance of Being Earnest (Algernon), The Last Five Years, (Jamie), and Matilda (Trunchbull). Many thanks to Nathan, this amazing cast, and the rest of this spectacular team!



LANA SUGARMAN

(GLINDA/JELLIA/LT.) is thrilled to be working at Dobama Theatre again after playing the role of Carol in Hurricane Diane last season. Local credits include: Our Country's Good (Seat of the Pants Productions) A

Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare at the Castle), An Enemy of the People and Hindsight 2020 (Access Theatre Project), The Mirror Effect (Playwrights Local), On the Line (Rubber City Theatre), The Bear (Western Reserve Playhouse), Doubt and Next to Normal (Player Guild). Lana holds an MFA in Acting from Kent State University and is a member of The Greenhouse,

DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS PROGRAM (DEAP)

JULY 5-30, 2023

Having completed its 12th season and on to the 13th, DEAP is the only summer intensive program in the region that is focused on technique-based training for a small ensemble of high school and college students. Serious young actors receive training in Meisner, Laban, Michael Chekhov, and Alexander Technique. The program culminates with a blackbox production of a heightened text play.



For more information, visit dobama.org.

an ensemble of Ohio artists who work, play, and nurture creativity together. This one's for her Ohio family (chosen and otherwise). http://lanasugarman.com



TIM KEO (WINKIE WATCHMAN/DOOR/THRONE) Past shows at Dobama include Airness, The Old Man and the Old Moon, Peter and the Starcatcher, as well as four Marylin Bianchi Kids Playwriting Festivals. Other credits include

Himalayan Dreams at Talespinner Children's Theatre, The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God produced by Karamu House for the 2019 BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival Cleveland and Pump Boys and Dinettes at Theatre in the Circle. An Actor/ Teacher at Great Lakes Theater for many years, Tim is also a double and electric bass musician. As a musician, Tim performs in theater pit orchestras whenever possible as well as singing and playing in two bands, The Belairs (1950's and 60's Doo-Wop) and The Diamond Dogs (David Bowie cover band). What a delight it is to be treading the boards again!



MIA RENARD

(TIP U/S) is a Freshman at Stow-Munroe Falls High School. She has performed at Weathervane Playhouse in *Newsies* (Newsie/Scab), Playhouse Square in *A Christmas Carol* (Belinda Cratchit), Brecksville Community

Theater in *The Sound of Music* (Louisa), Beachwood Community Theater in Matilda The Musical (Matilda), and Porthouse Theater in *The Music Man* (Amaryllis). Mia is so excited to be in her first production at Dobama Theater and wants to thank the wonderful cast, crew, and directors for this great opportunity. She also wants to thank her family for never giving up on her and her dreams.



SARAH BLUBAUGH

(SWING [FEM]) is honored to be working with this incredible team of artists on this new Cleveland work. She is a graduate of Cleveland State University specializing in Acting and has been working locally since 2017. Recent credits

include Oleanna, On Clover Road (None Too Fragile Theatre), These Shining Lives (Clague Playhouse), Six Bullets Faith, Nothing's Magic (Convergence-Continuum), The Way I Danced With You, The Penelopiad (Ensemble Theatre), and Much Ado About Nothing (Cleveland Shakespeare Festival). She would like to thank Nathan, this wonderful team, and all who support local theatre!



CONNOR STOUT

(SWING [MASC]) is thrilled to be the Masculine Swing in his debut performance at DOBAMA. Connor received his Master's in Opera Performance from the University of Illinois in 2021 under the tutelage of Dawn Harris and

Nathan Gunn. He has been seen recently in Cain Park's Sondheim on Sondheim, and Lakeland's Assassins. Enjoy the show!



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

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR/COMPOSER

NATHAN MOTTA (see About the Director)

PLAYWRIGHT/LYRICIST

GEORGE BRANT (see About the Playwright/Lyricist)

CHOREOGRAPHER

GREGORY DANIELS

has been the head of the Dance Program at Baldwin Wallace University since 2010. At BW he has choreographed RENT. FOLLIES, A CHORUS LINE, WEST SIDE STORY, ANYTHING GOES and the collegiate premiere of KINKY BOOTS to name a few. Regional choreographic credits include LES MISÉRABLES, FOREVER PLAID, CABARET, MY FAIR LADY, THE SECRET GARDEN and BEEHIVE (all at Great Lakes Theater, ISF and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare), ANYTHING GOES (TUTS starring Tony Nominee Dee Hotv), PUTTING IT TOGETHER (Syracuse Stage starring Tony Award winners Lillias White and Chuck Cooper), MY OWN SONG (Flatrock Playhouse starring Clint Holmes), the regional premieres of SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM (Playhouse Square), IN THE HEIGHTS, DOGFIGHT, SPRING AWAKENING (2012 Cleveland Critics Circle award for Best Choreography) and CARRIE (2014 Cleveland Critics Circle award for Best Choreography all at the Beck Center). He has had the rare honor of creating and choreographing a brand-new number for The Rockettes for The Commerce Bank Wow Awards, Proud SDC member. Special thanks to Nathan, George, Sam and Mabel. For more info, please visit www. gregorydaniels.net

DIRECTOR OF PUPPETRY ARTS

MICHAEL HORNER

What If Puppets (formerly Mesner Puppet Theater)

Mike Horner is a nationally recognized puppetry artist specializing in work for family audiences. As Director of Puppetry Arts for What If

Puppets, Mike serves as lead puppeteer, designer and builder, and his puppets can be seen on theater stages and in video productions across the country. Mike tours nationally and internationally with his puppet shows, several of which have been awarded grants from the Jim Henson Foundation. His puppets graced the Doboma stage previously in Hand to God. whatifpuppets.org

STAGE MANAGER

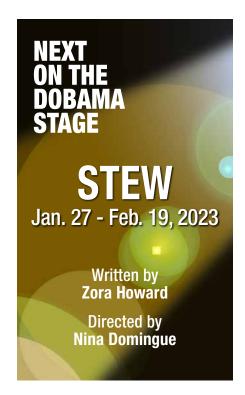
TOM HUMES*

(he/him) is an Assistant Professor of Stage Management at Kent State University, Production Stage Manager for Porthouse Theatre and was previously on the stage management staff at Cleveland Play House from 2012-2019. His teaching rotation includes courses in Stage Management, Production and Stage Management, and Theatre Management as well as serving as practicum advisor and mentor to the stage management students at Kent. He's happy to return to Dobama Theatre having previously stage managed The Cleveland Plays Part II: Dream Home, Caroline or Change, and The Cleveland Plays Part I: Migration. He's recently been published in Off Headset: Essays on Stage Management, Work, Life and Career. Tom's stage management work has also been seen at Cleveland Play House, Cain Park, McCarter Theatre Center, Beck Center for the Arts, Opera Cleveland, and Severance Hall. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, local 27 I.A.T.S.E, and the KSU Chapter of AAUP.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER BARBARA KOZLOV

is thrilled to join Dobama Theatre for the first time as an Assistant Stage Manager. Barbara is a Kent State University alumna, but has recently gone back to school for a degree in Applied Sciences to pursue the lofty goal of becoming a Renaissance woman. A few of her favorite shows she previously worked on include: A Christmas Carol (Rubber City Theatre), The Zoom Play That Has a Title and 35mm: A







Musical Exhibition (Kent State University), BKLYN: the Musical (Porthouse Theatre), and Concord Floral (The University of Akron). Barbara is ever grateful for her family and friends who have always loved and supported her

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

ELIZABETH CAMMETT

Elizabeth is a Cleveland native and 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, Chagrin Arts, Talespinner Children's Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Players Guild Theatre. Lakeland Community College, Porthouse Theatre, 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. Select credits include Hurricane Diane, Airness, Macbeth, Dance Nation, The Old Man and the Old Moon, Wakey, Wakey, Smokefall, The Nether, John, The Santaland Diaries, The Family Claxon, Intermission, Labio de Liebre: The Lip of the Hare, 44 Plays for 44 Presidents. Les Miserables, Reefer Madness, 4.48 Psychosis, and Mr. Marmalade. For Dad, alwavs.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ANDREW BIDWELL

is a freelance theatre director from Cleveland, Ohio with an inclination for new works. When not in rehearsal, he can be found collaborating with local nonprofits and businesses as both an owner of McKinley Street Productions - a media production and consultation firm - and as the Basic Needs Resource Coordinator for The Centers. Andrew is excited to return to Dobama as a part of this production and creative team.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

MATTHEW DOLAN

is an active music director, composer, arranger, conductor and pianist with over 40 stage productions to his credit. Matthew was most recently at Dobama in 2019, serving as the Music Director for the world premiere of "33 1/3." Additional recent credits include "American Psycho" (Music Director, Blank

Canvas Theatre). "The SpongeBob Musical" (Music Director, Blank Canvas Theatre), and the world premier production of "Light It Up!" (Music Assistant/Keyboard 2, Cleveland Play House). As a composer, Matthew's original work has been heard on the podcasts "Generative Spirits" and "Beyond the Habit." as well as on Channel 3 News. As an arranger, Matthew's work has been performed by high school, collegiate, and community ensembles across the northeast Ohio region. Matthew is the current Director of Music at Rocky River United Methodist Church. He also serves as accompanist for the Cleveland Heights High School Vocal Music Department, as well as the St. Ignatius High School Harlequins. Matthew holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Theory and Composition, and a Master's degree in Choral Conducting, both from the University of Akron. Matthew thanks his parents, family, and friends for their love and never ending support. He would like to dedicate his performance of this work to the memory of Kevin Kelly.

ASSISTANT MD/KEYBOARD

RACHEL WOODS

has performed over 30 productions in the Cleveland area since 2012. She served as Music Director for The Toxic Avenger at Blank Canvas Theatre, Les Miserable and Xanadu at Near West Theatre, and the Shining Star CLE singing competition. Some of her recent theater credits include: Ella Enchanted (Dobama Theatre, regional premiere), The 25th Annual... Spelling Bee (Cleveland Play House), Memphis and Ragtime (Cain Park), Merrily We Roll Along and A Little Night Music (Lakeland Civic Theatre).

GUITAR

JESSE FISHMAN

would like to thank the phenomenal cast, production team, and musicians I'm playing with for making me sound like I know what I'm doing. It is always a pleasure playing music with you all, and for you all.

BASS

TIM KEO (See CAST)



REED

RJ ROVITO

(he/him) is thrilled to premiere the reed book for *The Land of Oz*, his first Dobama Theatre production. A hospital clinical pharmacist by day and multi-instrumentalist by night, he has performed in fifty musicals throughout northeast Ohio and southwest Pennsylvania; favorites include *Merrily We Roll Along, The Light in the Piazza*, and *Big Fish*. He is also a member of the Euclid Symphony Orchestra and North Royalton Community Band. He'd like to thank everyone who has kept his music hobby exciting and engaging; his family, friends, and coworkers for accommodating his performance schedule; and each of you in the audience for supporting the arts in Cleveland.

PERCUSSION

JUSTIN HART

is a Cleveland-based drummer and percussionist. Previously played for Dobama's productions of Peter and the Starcatcher and Ella Enchanted. Many thanks to friends, family, staff, fellow musicians, and everyone involved.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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



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www.NewHeightsGrill.com NewHeightsGrill@facebook.com 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.

PROJECTIONS/SCENIC

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). tpaullowry.com

SCENIC PAINTER

JAMIE COHEN-KIRALY

is a contemporary artist in Cleveland. She graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2020, and has continued her career as a professional artist in the form of theater, tattooing, murals, and other painting projects. As a former Dobama Theater intern, she is now working on many shows behind the scenes, building and painting productions around the Cleveland area.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

DAVE STOUGHTON

has designed the lighting for a diverse array of projects in both professional and academic venues across the country. He is a proud member of the Cleveland arts community and the United Scenic Artists Local USA 829, IATSE. David also teaches production design and technology at Cleveland State University, where he is an Assistant Professor. He is excited to be making his Dobama Theatre

debut and is thankful for getting to collaborate with such wonderful and talented artists. You can view more of David's work at www. davidstoughton.com. Notable collaborations: Les Delices (Cleveland); TheatreSquared (Fayetteville, AR); The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Ohio Light Opera; the Cleveland Museum of Art; Livewire Chicago Theatre; and The Guthrie Theatre Lab (Minneapolis, MN).

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 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.

SOUND TECHNICIAN

JORDAN DEMICH-BOGNER

Jordan holds a Bachelor's degree in Technical Theater from Cleveland State University. Jordan has worked in many theater roles over the years including acting, house manager, stage manager, light designer, light board operator, sound designer, sound board operator, and technical crew from props to building the set. Jordan is the owner of Sound by Jordan and works with many local theaters as a sound designer and a sound board operator. She wishes to thank her family for their unwavering love & support and is excited to be working board op with the fabulous cast and crew at Dohama.





COSTUME DESIGNER

TESIA DUGAN BENSON

Selected costume design credits include LIFE SUCKS, AIRNESS, STUPID FUCKING BIRD, GROUNDED, AN OCTOROON, PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER, MARIE ANTOINETTE, SUPERIOR DONUTS, and THE ALIENS and for Dobama, THE SOUND OF MUSIC for The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, LA VOIX HUMAINE for Opera Cleveland, RAGTIME, MEMPHIS, and TOXIC AVENGER for Cain Park, DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA and ANCESTRA for Cleveland Public Theatre, and BENT and 'NIGHT MOTHER for Beck Center. Scenic design credits include GROUNDED and REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN for Dobama and EGRESS for Cleveland Play House. Other credits include designs for Apollo's Fire, Lakeland Civic Theater, Near West Theater, Keystone Repertory Theater, Baldwin Wallace University, and Laurel School. Tesia is an Associate Professor in Costumes at Baldwin Wallace University and holds her M.F.A. in Costume Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Proud member USA 829. www.tesiaduganbenson.com

WARDROBE

LADY JEN RYAN

Lady Jen 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 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.

PROPS DESIGNER

VANESSA COOK

is a B-W Conservatory (BM) and Regent University (MA) alum, Ms Cook is the owner of Cook Theatre Designs, LLC, a freelance design firm that serves Ohio theatre programs. She served as TD, designer and adjunct professor at Heidelberg University and is former costume/ set designer for Heidelberg's Community Music School. Ms. Cook currently works with several Cleveland based theater 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.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

COLIN ANDERSON

(See Staff Director of Production)

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

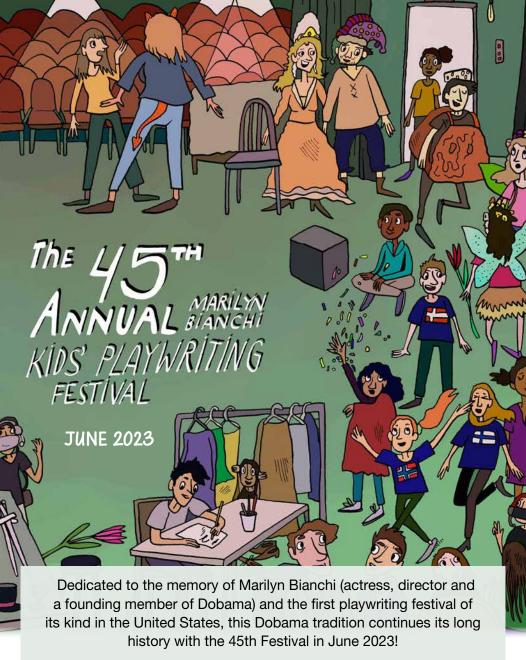
ESMA EDDEB

is honored to be working with Dobama! Her past credits include working at American Shakespeare Center, Playhouse Square, and Great Lakes Theatre. She'd like to thank her parents and her husband Hashim for being so supportive in all her endeavours.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

ANDY ZICARI

(he/him) is a proud Cleveland Heights native and graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory. He enjoys managing stages for schools and theaters across the Greater Cleveland area including for the Happy Ending Lyric Players -where he recently made his stage debut in CLUE (Dead Body #3)- and Talespinner Children's Theatre, where he is excited to return to stage manage HOOK AND SMEE in the spring. Andy sends thanks to his parents, his ever-loving partner, and Dobama for bringing him back after his season as an intern last year.



We receive hundreds of plays written by Northeast Ohio students grades 1 – 12 throughout the year. Select winning entries are performed as part of a FREE Kids' Fest weekend.

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



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 Soliloguy 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 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 *ANTIGONE* (Cleveland Play House). Instagram: @magical_mariahb Email: mariahb@dobama.org

ERIN DOLAN

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

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 of 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, Talespinner 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 imagination. Email: edolan@dobama.org

ESMA EDDEB

DIRECTING INTERN (See Production Assistant)

MICHAEL GLAVAN

DIRECTING INTERN/TEACHING ARTIST (he/him) is an actor, director, and teaching artist originally from the greater Cleveland area. After graduating Kent State University, Michael moved to New York City and worked off-Broadway and regionally across the country as an actor for the better part of the last decade. His longest running off-Broadway role made appearances in Bravo Network's *The Shahs of Sunset* as well as *Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen*, which began a modest career in television and commercial work. As a director Michael has relished the opportunity to stage a pretty wide breadth of production. Directing credits include: *The Haunted Forest* featured in the 2022 Marilyn

Bianchi Kid's Playwriting Festival. She Kills Monsters currently (fall '22) in rehearsal at Laurel School, Godspell and [title of show] at KSU's E-Z Blackbox, Richard III with The Mad Rogues (formerly Bard and Bourbon) in Milwaukee, Macbeth with a Chekhov-focused studio theatre company Name of Bird in NYC. Joev and Ron a 60s bubblegum pop musical at the Player's Theatre in NYC, as well as developing new short works within a performance series titled Fast and Furious which premiered monthly at the Tank in NYC. Since returning to Cleveland Michael has had the pleasure of getting more acquainted with NEOhio theatres: working with Rubber City Theatre's 2021 new musical development series; with Cleveland Playhouse as a teaching artist for John Adams High School, Stevenson, OLMC; with Dobama in the 2021 production of Airness as well as MBKPF; with Porthouse Theatre in the 2022 production of Little Shop of Horrors;





with The Greenhouse as a prospective member of the actors' studio collective. Instagram: @ mglavan425 Email: mike.glavan@gmail.com

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 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 Plav 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

CALI PAREY

DIRECTING INTERN

is a director, stage manager, and teaching artist. She is a determined and passionate student of the world. Cali is honored to be part of the Dobama team as an intern this year! Hailing from Cleveland, she is a graduate of Cleveland State University and recipient of the Reuben and Dorothy Silver Endowed Scholarship. She managed Into the Woods and Marat/Sade and worked as assistant director on Polaroid Stories while at CSU. She has had the pleasure of directing young artists in A Year with Frog and Toad, Winnie the Pooh, The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, Singing in the Rain Jr., and Pinoccio Jr. at StageCrafters Youth Theatre. Cali has worked with Dobama and Cleveland Public Theatre in the past. Most recently. Cali directed a local cast in Waiting For Godot, in a fundraising effort for The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, She is so grateful to be surrounded with such creative and talented minds here at Dobama. Never Ever Give Up.

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

THE LAND OF OZ

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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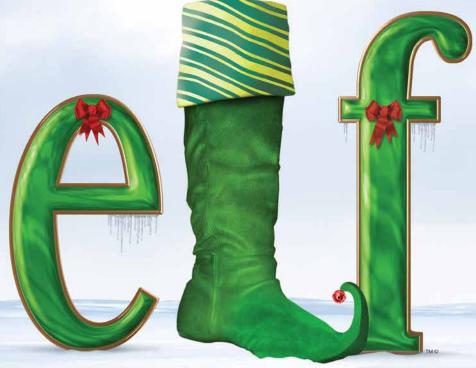
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