

DOBAMA
THEATRE



LITTLE WOMEN

DECEMBER 1–31, 2023

WRITTEN BY:
Heather Chrisler

DIRECTED BY:
Melissa Crum

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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

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Louisa May Alcott's timeless novel about a group of sisters coming of age is one of the most treasured books in literature. The story has been told in numerous adaptations for stage and screen.

It endures in large part because of the richly drawn characters and relationships. We see ourselves in their family. Their hopes and disappointments, good humor and fights, love and loss are universal to us all.

Playwright Heather Chrisler's new adaptation is unique and extraordinary. By having four women perform all the roles, the playfulness and sisterhood at the center of

the book becomes the theatrical vehicle used to tell the story. The spirit of creativity and their deep love for one another are the magic ingredients in creating the world of the play.

In the same way that the March sisters find endless happiness in performing Jo's scripts in their attic, this incredible ensemble of actors, with the support of a fantastic creative team, emanate joy as they use the power of theatre to invite audiences to unfurl your imagination, so you might experience this abiding book in a fresh, new way.

Little Women reflects in vivid detail what it means to be family - the joy of togetherness, struggle of conflict, sadness of loss, and unconditional love. During this season of hope, we wish you happiness and peace. Thank you for being a part of this magical production and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

With Love and Respect,

Nathan Motta



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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



MELISSA CRUM is a Cleveland-based Director, Writer, Performer, Producer, and Teaching Artist. Focused on humor, heart, and vulnerable truth-telling, she creates as an exploration of the crevices, complexities, and contradictions of our shared human-ness. Melissa received the 2016/2017 Nord Family Foundation Playwright Fellowship through Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT), where she and co-writer & composer Caitlin Lewins developed *Everything is Okay (and other helpful lies)*, a dark musical comedy. *Everything is Okay (and other helpful lies)* received a reading at the New York Musical Festival (NYMF) in the summer of 2019. Through this work, Crum and Lewins were finalists for the 2019

Mitten Lab. Melissa completed the 2013/2014 Joan Yellen Horvitz Director Fellowship at Cleveland Public Theatre, where she directed *The Drowning Girls*. Melissa has directed locally at Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Talespinner Children's Theatre, and Playwright's Local. Melissa currently holds the position of Artistic & Education Associate at Cleveland Public Theatre. She has served as a Staff Teaching Artist with Playhouse Square, worked as an Actor-Teacher with Great Lakes Theater, has been a Teaching Artist with The Cleveland Play House, The Musical Theater Project, and Dobama Theatre, and is a member of the National Teaching Artist Guild. Melissa holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Cleveland State University. melissatheresecrum.com.



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



HEATHER CHRISLER'S work in Chicago includes *Howards End* (Remy Bumppo), *Twilight Bowl* (Goodman Theatre; Jeff Nomination, Best Ensemble; Chris Jones Top Ten Performances of 2019 Honorable Mention), *Mies Julie* (Victory Gardens; Chris Jones Top Ten Performances of 2018), *Small Mouth Sounds* (A Red Orchid; Jeff Nomination, Best Ensemble), *Machinal* (Greenhouse; Jeff Nomination, Best Performer; Chris Jones Top Ten Performances of 2017) and *good friday* (Oracle Productions, Jeff Nomination Ensemble). Chrisler is an Artistic Associate of First Folio Theatre where she has been in *The Jigsaw Bride*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Captain Blood*, and *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe*. Regionally, she has been in productions at The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Door Shakespeare, Riverside Theatre, and Portland Center Stage. As a playwright, Chrisler's adaptation of *Little Women* has been produced around the Midwest and had its fourth production in spring of 2023 at First Folio Theatre. As an educator, Chrisler is both a drama teacher and the Director of the Arts Immersion Camp for The City of Evanston. She is also a faculty member of The Laughing Academy. Her television credits include "4400" (The CW) and "Chicago PD" (NBC). Chrisler holds an MFA from Ohio University, and she is represented by DDO Chicago.

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DOBAMA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
the Ohio Premiere of

LITTLE WOMEN

BY HEATHER CHRISLER

DIRECTED BY MELISSA T. CRUM

DECEMBER 1-31, 2023

THE CAST

THEO ALLYN*	JO
AMAYA KIYOMI	AMY/JOHN BROOKE
NATALIE GREEN*	BETH/LAURIE
MARIAH BURKS	MEG/PROFESSOR BAER

SWINGS:

RACHEL GOLD, ADRIIONNA POWELL

*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 during the performance will only be allowed re-entry at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

LITTLE WOMEN received its Professional World Premiere on December 17, 2022,
at First Folio Theatre in Oak Brook, Illinois. The production was directed
by Melanie Keller and produced by David Rice.

LITTLE WOMEN is presented by special arrangement with playwright Heather Chrisler.

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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

Melissa T. Crum

SCENIC DESIGNER

Laura Carlson Tarantowski

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Josee Coyle

SOUND DESIGNER

Angie Hayes

COSTUME DESIGNER

Colleen Bloom

PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Connor Stout

STAGE MANAGER

Barbara Kozlov

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Colin Anderson

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Cali Parey

DRAMATURG

Esma Eddeb

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Lizzi Lucarell

Cam Henderson

Emily Polcyn

ASST. SOUND DESIGNER

E.J. Buckner

SCENIC PAINTER

Jamie Cohen-Kiraly

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

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Nathan Motta

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Colin Anderson

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DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

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CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR

Elise Kuklinca

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

Amy Lin Weaver

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Carrie Williams

RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Marcus Dana

RESIDENT SOUND DESIGNER

Angie Hayes

RESIDENT COSTUME DESIGNER

Tesia Dugan Benson

RESIDENT PROPS DESIGNER

Vanessa Cook

RESIDENT SCENIC ARTIST

Justine Schneider

RESIDENT INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Casey Venema

RESIDENT STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

BOX OFFICE STAFF

DeLee Cooper, Sarah

Demetruk, Kelsey Malone

DOBAMA 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.

CAST



THEO ALLYN*
(JO) (she/they) is making her Dobama Theatre debut. An actor, writer, and improviser, she was most recently seen as Guildenstern in Quantum Theatre's *Hamlet*.

Other recent credits include Pittsburgh Civic

Light Opera's *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mom) and *Anything Goes* (Evangeline Harcourt). A member of the original San Francisco company of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, she has also worked regionally with Diversionary Theatre in *This Beautiful City* (San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Craig Noel Nomination), Second City, Goodman Theatre, City Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. Training includes the Atlantic Theatre Company Acting School and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. @theoallyn



AMAYA KIYOMI
(AMY/JOHN BROOKE) (she/her) is a Rochester, NY-born, Charlotte, NC-raised actor who recently moved to Cleveland after finishing her BFA in Acting from UNC-Greensboro. Amaya is a homebody at heart,

but she loves to travel. She got the privilege to study abroad in England and Greece with the British American Drama Academy in June 2022. She loves education, and her heart is happiest when she gets to travel and learn at the same time. Amaya enjoys all facets of art, including, but not limited to, visual arts, music theatre, dance, and filmmaking. She is currently an Actor-Teacher with Great Lakes Theater. Being able to bring kids into the theatres has been such a blessing. This spring, she'll be preparing for next year's graduate school auditions! Fingers crossed! Connect with her on Instagram: @AmayaKiyomi_



NATALIE GREEN*
(BETH/LAURIE) (she/her) is grateful to appear onstage with Dobama Theatre, where she was most recently seen as Beth in *Hurricane Diane*. Other Dobama performances include

Ella Enchanted: The Musical, *An Octoroon, Or,,* and *A Civil War Christmas*. She is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and a member of Actors' Equity Association. Regionally, Natalie has worked with Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Play House, Pittsburgh Repertory Company, Mamai Theatre Company, Cleveland Public Theatre, EJ

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Brittany Watkins
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Chennelle Bryant-Harris
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Greg Vovos
Rotating Playwright Chair

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Joel Hammer, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

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Barbara Hill-Newby
Bill Newby

Jennifer Stapleton
Laura Anderson

DOBAMA THEATRE

Thomas Hall, Beck Center for the Arts, none too fragile theatre, and many more. Thank you for supporting live, local theatre.



MARIAH BURKS*
(MEG/PROFESSOR BAER) (she/her) is a Cleveland, OH, native. Previously at Dobama: *AIRNESS* (Nina). Her work has mainly been seen at Cleveland Play House, where she most recently played the titular

role of Antigone pre-pandemic. Other credits include: *Clue: A New Comedy* (The Cook) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne). 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: *Caroline, or Change* (Tantrum Theatre) and *RAGTIME* (Cain Park). Mariah also serves as Dobama Theatre's Director of Engagement. Instagram: @magical_mariahb



ADRIONNA POWELL
(SWING (LITTLE WOMAN 3, 4)) (she/her) is a Cleveland-based actor. She is the Assistant Director of Youth Services at Mandel JCC; has worked with Cleveland Public Theatre, Great Lakes Theater and more. She is thrilled to be making her return to Dobama. She was last seen on our stage in last season's production of *Stew (Nelly)*.



RACHEL GOLD
(SWING (LITTLE WOMAN 1, 2)) (she/her) is an actor, director, and fight choreographer from Columbus, OH. She is a recent BFA Acting graduate from Baldwin Wallace University. In the past, Rachel has worked with Great Lakes Theater, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, French Creek Theatre, CreakerBox Radio, and Chagrin Arts. IG: @rachelegold, rachelegold.weebly.com

DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS PROGRAM (DEAP)

JULY 2024



Now in its 14th season, 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. Emerging professionals receive mentorship in the areas of design, stage management, and directing. The program culminates with a blackbox production of a heightened text play.

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Chow**



**Angela
Cheng**

piano faculty
Oberlin Conservatory of Music



**Olga
Kern**

piano



**Vladislav
Kern**

piano

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the joys of music in the family

May 31 | 7:30pm

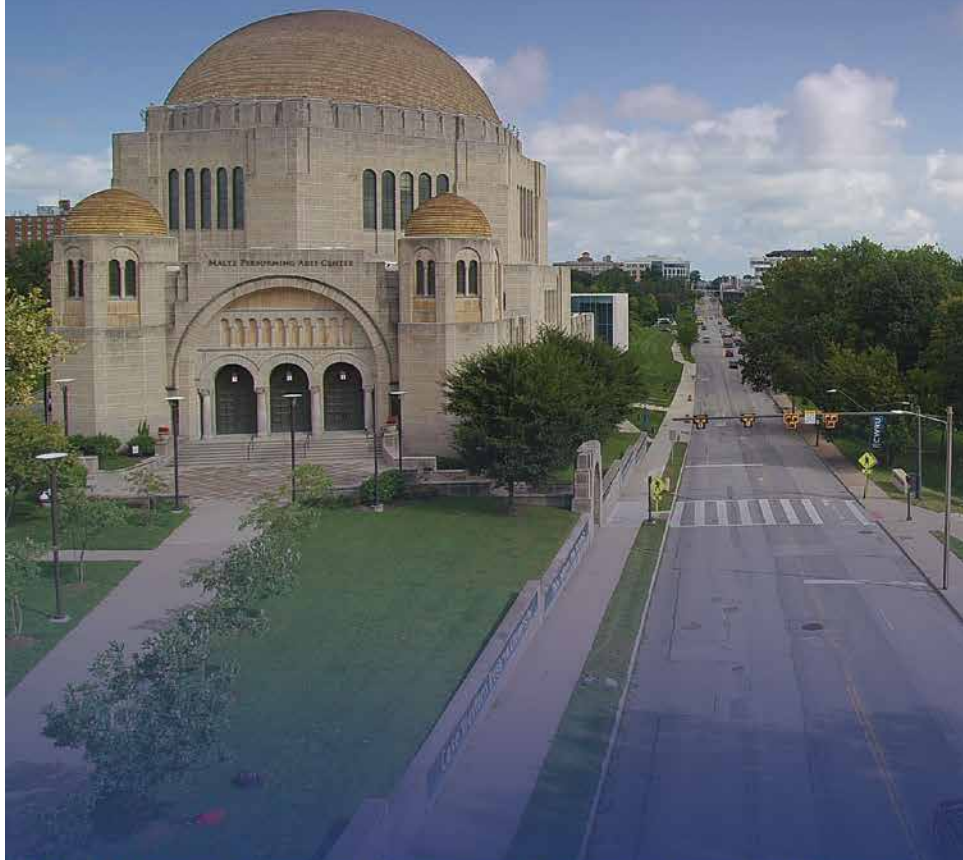


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PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

MELISSA CRUM
(see About the Director)

SCENIC DESIGNER

LAURA CARLSON TARANTOWSKI
lives and works in the Cleveland area and has enjoyed designing many productions for Dobama. Recent work here includes *Make Believe*, *Stew*, *Kill Move Paradise*, *Wakey Wakey*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, and *Sunset Baby*. She is the resident Scenic Designer and Lecturer at Oberlin College. Recent work at Oberlin includes *Pipeline*, *Albert Herring*, *Stonewallin, Or.,* and *The Moors*. Other recent works include *Emma Bombeck: at Wits End* for the Cleveland Play House, *Rent* at Cain Park, and *Everybody* for the Case Western Reserve-Cleveland Play House MFA Acting Program. She holds an MFA in Scene Design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

JOSEE M. COYLE
Is honored to work on this production of *Little Women*. Josee is a young artist whose recent work includes *Stew* (Dobama), *Steel Magnolias* (French Creek), *How the Circus Stole Christmas*, and *Can I Touch It?* (CPT). They hope you enjoy this show and feel the heart that was put into it by every member of the team.

SOUND DESIGNER

ANGIE HAYES
is the Resident Sound Designer at Dobama Theatre, most recently designing *The Other Place* last season. She designed and mixed sound for productions at many area theaters, colleges, and high schools. She has also recorded and sound designed for several podcasts, including *Sidewalk*, *Munchen, MN*, and a radio play series for The Endangered Species Theatre Project of Frederick, MD, during the pandemic. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Music from the University

of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with an emphasis in Recording Technology and Music Business.

COSTUME DESIGNER

COLLEEN BLOOM
is excited to be back at Dobama and have a part in re-telling this beloved story. Colleen has a degree in nonprofit management and an Associates in Art and Design. For nearly twenty years Colleen has been part of the production team at Heights Youth Theatre where she has helped introduce the magic of theater to children and costumed over 65 musical productions. Colleen also has done exciting work with many other theaters. No matter the stage or venue the design process is a thrill, collaborating with creative people is always inspiring!

PROPS DESIGNER

VANESSA 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 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 high school 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.

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

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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; since then, she has choreographed for several theatres in Northeast Ohio including Dobama, Karamu House, Seat of the Pants, Playwrights Local, Cleveland Play House, 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: caseyvenema.com

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

CONNOR STOUT

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 Dobama's *The Land of Oz*, Cain Park's *Fun Home* and *Sondheim on Sondheim*, and Lakeland's *Assassins*. Enjoy the show!

STAGE MANAGER

BARBARA KOZLOV

is thrilled to work with some of her favorite folks at Dobama once again. Her previous SM credits include the following: the world premiere of *The Baron of Brown Street* (RCT), *Anything Goes* (RCT), the world premiere of *What We Look Like* (Dobama), *Concord Floral* (UoA), and *BKLYN: The Musical* (Porthouse). She strives to make people smile both through the theatrical arts and in her studies as a dental hygienist. Barbara gives thanks to her family who have always supported her dreams and Viewers Like You.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CALI PAREY

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 a previous RAD and now a freelance artist. Previous Dobama credits include *The Thin Place* (Asst. Director/Props Designer), *What We Look Like* (Asst. Stage Manager), and *Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars* (Asst. Stage Manager). Hailing from Cleveland, she is a graduate of Cleveland State University.

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She stage managed *Into the Woods*, *Marat/Sade* and Assistant Directed *Polaroid Stories* while at CSU. 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!

DRAMATURG ESMA EDDEB

is honored to be working with Dobama and the company of *Little Women*! Her past credits include working at American Shakespeare Center, Playhouse Square, Great Lakes Theatre, and Dobama. She'd like to thank her parents, siblings, her husband Hashim, and nephew Musa for being so supportive in all her endeavors.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER LIZZI LUCARELL

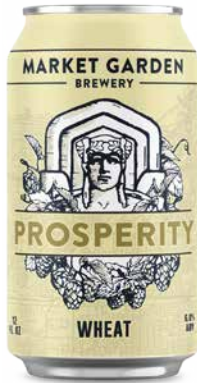
is happy to be returning to Dobama now as a RAD, her previous productions at Dobama include Production Assistant for *The Land of*

Oz and Production Swing for *What We Look Like*. Other production credits include Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute, The Academy for The Performing Arts, Chagrin Falls High School, and Heights Youth Theatre. Lizzi would like to thank everyone at Dobama for this opportunity and for welcoming her with such big arms. She would also like to thank her family and teachers over the years, especially her lovely freshman English teacher Natalie Hrvatin who got her into theatre.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER CAM HENDERSON

is "just another kid" from Akron, OH, making headway into the Northeast Ohio theatre scene as one of Dobama's FOCUS Apprentices. Her most recent work was as the Stage Manager of Akron Civic Theatre's production of *Pride and Prejudice*, though her talents do not stop there. A former host of the 88.1 WRFL Lexington's radio show "King's Corner", she has also directed a number of marketing campaigns for various organizations and companies throughout

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Northeast Ohio and Northern Kentucky. The University of Kentucky alumna has also worked in other mediums such as music videos and short films. An example of her work can be found on YouTube for the “Nelciaa- Options” music video and many more. Instagram: @cashamillie

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

EMILY POLCYN

is a recent graduate of Baldwin Wallace University’s BFA in Acting with a minor in Arts Management. She is also one of the Arts Administration RADs at Dobama this season. This is her first time working as a PA, and her first show with Dobama! Much love to her family.

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 theatrical

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, where he plans on obtaining a bachelors degree, and is one of Dobama’s FOCUS Apprentices.

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 theatre, tattooing, murals, and other painting projects. As a former Dobama Theatre RAD, she is now working on many shows behind the scenes, building and painting productions around the Cleveland area.

WARDROBE

LADY JEN RYAN

is an artist and originator. Lady Jen has performed and worked from behind the curtain for over three decades. Lady Jen majored in

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

Christopher Johnston

Meredith L. King

Lisa Langford

Claire Robinson May

Avery LaMar Pope

Amy Schwabauer

Eric Schmiedl

Logan Cutler Smith

Greg Vovos

Dr. Mary E. Weems

Rachel Zake

For more information, visit dobama.org.

vocal performance and minored in musical theatre at Bowling Green State University. Lady Jen 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*, and *Xanadu*. Select performances include *Applause*, *Cabaret*,

Hunchback of Notre Dame, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Nine*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Scrooge!*, *Victor Victoria*, and *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.



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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), *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

The 46th Annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival June 2024

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 46th Festival in June 2024!

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industry and beyond. Directing credits include *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, upcoming); *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

(she/her) 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; *Clue: A New Comedy* (The Cook); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne). 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 *Caroline, or Change* (Tantrum Theatre) and *RAGTIME* (Cain Park). Instagram: @magical_mariahb



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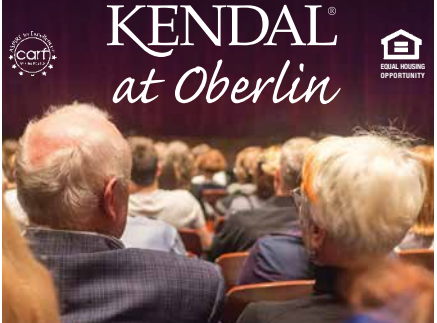
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LENA CHAPIN

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

(she/her) is a lifetime theatre-goer and has been a member of Dobama 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 imagination.

ELISE KUKLINCA

CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR

(she/they) 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 a myriad of places including La Jolla Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, The Carnegie and Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

AMY LIN WEAVER

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

(she/her) joined the Dobama team in September and works on a wide range of operational, financial, and development activities at the theatre. She is also a sound designer and stage manager, with selected credits including *Panther Women: An Army for the Liberation* (Cleveland Public Theatre), *Constellations*, and *The 39 Steps* (Players’ Theatre Group). Amy began her professional career as the inaugural House Stage Manager at the Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University



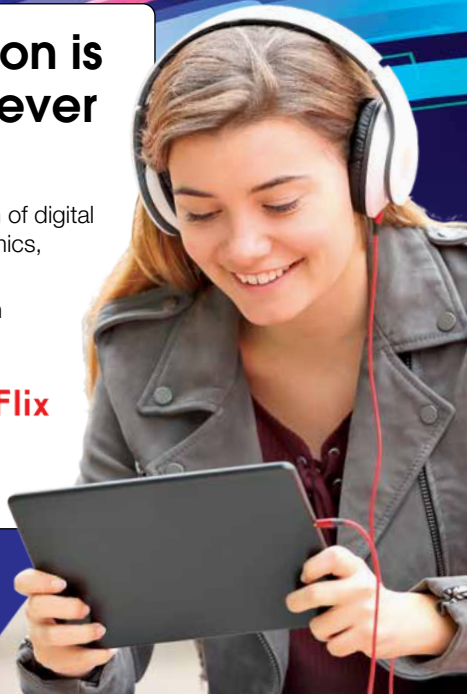
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before spending several years with progressive responsibilities as Cleveland Public Theatre's Finance Manager. Amy studied computer science and comes to Cleveland from the Washington, D.C. area.

CARRIE WILLIAMS
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

(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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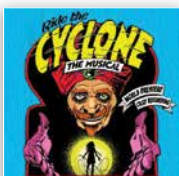
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