



# Kids Write Festival 2024

**BURNING  
C O A L  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**  
919.834.4001 BURNINGCOAL.ORG

***Disaster at Lakeview***

by Avery Seppala (Enloe High School)

Directed by Susan Gross

***Regrets of Man***

by Noah Howard (Fuquay-Varina Middle School)

Directed by Susan Gross

***Through the Years***

by Carson Adams (Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School)

Directed by Johannah Maynard Edwards

***To Be Deceased***

by Brynn Bolick, Sophia Moore, Bridget Morin, Lavie  
Nguyen, Gibson Scoggins, and Morgan Strickland  
(Franklin Academy)

Directed by Johannah Maynard Edwards

# Production Team

**Jerome Davis (Artistic Director/Producer).** For Burning Coal: A Little Night Music, Arcadia, etc. For other companies: Turn of the Screw (NC Opera), Red (Lexington Theatre Guild), etc. Jerry founded Burning Coal too many years ago to count. He has worked with Ellyn Burstyn, Richard Jenkins, David Edgar, Ralph Waite, Lindsey Crouse and David Wheeler, among others.

**Johannah Maynard Edwards (Director: *Through the Years, To be Deceased*)** is the Executive Artistic Director of the National Women's Theatre Festival based in Raleigh, NC. She has directed, devised, and produced in NYC, Minneapolis, and the Triangle. Johannah is currently co-creating, directing, and devising *The Momversations Project* production and podcast. Other recent directing credits include *Dance Nation*, readings of *Out Of Balance* by Lindsay Carpenter, *Natural Shocks* by Lauren Gunderson (both WTF) and *You Are What You* by Mora V. Harris (Burning Coal) as well as productions of *Space Girl* by Mora V. Harris (Longleaf School of the Arts) and her original devised work *Licked Cupcake* (WTF). Recent performance credits include *Gertie And Alice By The Sea* (Gertie) by Caridad Svich and *Alabaster* (June) by Audrey Cefaly. Her short form video performance *200 Days In* was commissioned by the Raleigh Arts Commission's SEEK Raleigh program. A passionate arts educator, Johannah has been a teaching artist at Raleigh Little Theatre, Arts Together, Sterling Montessori, LearningSpring, NC Governor's School, and at Longleaf School of the Arts. Johannah is a Chief Rep for PAAL, the Parent Artist Advocacy League for the Performing Arts and proudly served on the Arts Learning Community for Universal Access through the Office of Raleigh Arts for 3 years. She has also served on the SETC Equity Diversity Inclusion + Access Task Force and as the Founding Chair of the SETC Disability Inclusion Committee, and the Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD®) Conference Content Committee. In 2022, Johannah received the LEAD® Award for Emerging Leaders from the Kennedy Center. Johannah is a graduate of NYU/Tisch School of the Arts/Playwrights Horizons Theatre School.

**Susan Gross (Director: *Disaster at Lakeview; Regrets of Man*).** Susan made her Off-Broadway debut in the New York premiere of Christopher Durang's *The Vietnamization of New Jersey* and performed on stage at Theatre Row, The Brick, Dixon Place, and Teatro LATEA. In Boston, Susan performed with Lyric Stage, New Repertory Theatre, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, Greater Boston Stage Company, and Zeitgeist Stage. Susan made her Burning Coal debut last summer with her solo show *Ruby* which received its premiere in New York with Tongue In Cheek Theater. *Ruby* was nominated for best performance, direction and production of a solo show at Planet Connections Theatre Festivity. Her other plays have been performed at The Secret Theatre in Queens, NY and the Off-Broadway venue, Theatre Row. Susan has taught youth acting classes at North Shore Music Theatre and was the literary manager at Alchemy Theatre Company of Manhattan. She is currently at work on her new play, *Just Kids*. Susan can be seen opposite Zoe Kazan in *In Your Eyes* and opposite Jude Law in Steven Soderbergh's *Side Effects*. She is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild, Actors' Equity, and SAG-AFTRA.

**Beth Gargan (Costumer)** is an avid theatergoer and quilter, and is thrilled to add costuming to her resume. Recent productions include: *26 Pebbles* (Justice Theater Project), *Arcadia* (Burning Coal), and *12 Angry Jurors* (JTP). She also did the costuming for JTP's 2023 summer camp, working with 120 lively campers in *Annie Jr.* She will reprise the costumer role for this year's summer production of *Matilda Jr.* Thanks to Jerome Davis for giving the newby a chance and to Addison Florio for her collaboration and support! Much love to Sean, my biggest fan.

**Meredith Riggan (Scenic Painter).** Meredith has painted for 8 seasons at Burning Coal for the productions of: *A Little Night Music*, *HYMN*, *Moonlight*, *Arcadia*, *Mlima's Tale*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Silent Sky*, *A Great Big Whooly Mammoth Thawing in the Ice*, *GALILEO*, *ART*, *Road to Mecca*, *I and You*, *Evita*, *9 lives*, *Boys & Girls*, *Housecleaning Part 2 -Conversations I Always Wanted to Have*, *A Hundred Words for Snow*, *Tally's Folly*, *Camelot*, *The Container*, *The Great Celestial Cow*, *Ashe in Johannesburg*, *The Weir*, *Stuff Happens*, *King Charles III*, *Normal Heart*, *Peter Pan and Wendy*, *Darkside*, *The Royal*, *Heizenberg*, *Written on the Heart*, *Skylight*, *SPOONFACE STEINBERG*, *The Wiz*, and *Good*. She has also worked with other companies: William Peace University, Half Pint Theatre, Sweet Tea Shakespeare, Triad Stage, City Arts-Greensboro Children's Theatre, The Winston Salem Theatre Alliance, ECU Loessin Playhouse. Meredith received a Bachelor's Degree in Scenic Painting from NC University School of the Arts and has been involved in theatre her whole life.

**Matthew Strampfe (Lighting Design).** Matthew began his theatrical career over 25 years ago. During that time he has had the pleasure of working with many wonderful people and many wonderful companies. He has designed shows or managed technical departments for: The Lost Colony, The Arden Theatre, The Arkansas Arts Center, Ballet Memphis, New Ballet Ensemble, Theatre Memphis, Tennessee Shakespeare Company, The University of Memphis' Opera Program, Collage Dance Collective, Desoto Theatre, and Hendrix College. For the past ten years he has worked as the Technical Director for North Carolina Opera and the Production Manager for Carolina Ballet. He is happy to be joining Burning Coal for this production.

#### **THANK YOU ALSO TO:**

**Barry Jaked (Tech Director)**

**Juan Isler (Sound Design)**

**Miranda Fishkin (Board Operator)**

**Addison Florio (Stage Manager).** From an early age Addison has been involved in the arts. On-stage, part of technical crew, and stage management. Addison was involved in Burning Coal's 27th season as Assistant Stage Manager and Board Operator: *Arcadia*, *Moonlight*, *Hymn*, and *A Little Night Music*. Addison's play *Velious* was included in Burning Coal's KidsWrite Festival in 2023. Addison has worked with theaters such as Raleigh Little Theatre, NC Theatre Conservatory, and participated in Athens Drive High School's theatre program. Involving musicals such as *Oklahoma*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Beehive*, *Suessical*, and more. Addison attends Score Academy as a soon to be graduate. Addison would like to thank her family for their endless support, actors and playwrights who've made this show come to life, and of course, stage management and designers. She wishes everyone good luck and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Gabriella Terrero (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a singer and lyricist new to the North Carolina area. She is elated to be working on the production of *KIDSWRITE* at Burning Coal Theatre Company. This is the third time she has done backstage work on a professional scale! She is grateful that Burning Coal continues to provide opportunities for her to be in the theatre. Gabriella's previous experience includes being an assistant stage manager earlier this year in Burning Coals 2024 production of *Hymn* as well as *A Little Night Music*. She has also made appearances performing in Raleigh Little Theatre's 2023 production of *Last Stop on Market Street* where she played one of the leads, Nana. Additionally, at Cary Players' Theatre's 2023 Winter Production of *A Gift to Remember* where she led the choir! Gabriella has felt unstoppable in her theatre pursuit and you can catch her next production at Henderson Players' Theatre where she will join the ensemble in *Spongebob Squarepants: The Musical*. Gabriella is excited to embark on this theatre endeavor and knows these are only the first steps of her magical journey.

**Sara Wiley (Assistant Stage Manager).** This is Sara's first production with Burning Coal! Regional: *The Nutcracker*. College: *Rent*, *Something Rotten!*, *Radium Girls*, *Mizzou New Play Series*. Sara's play *Spring Cleaning* has been featured at the KCACTF Region 5 Festival, as well as at the University of Missouri and Western Nebraska Community College.



# Cast



## Preston Campbell

As: Dylan (*Disaster at Lakeview*) & Sir Clinton Aubergine (*To Be Deceased*)

For Burning Coal Theatre: *Mlima's Tale*, *Art, Nine Lives*, *Ashe in Johannesburg*, *The Normal Heart*, and *The Royale*. For Theatre in the Park: *Noises Off*, *Psycho Beach Party*, *Equivocation*, and *The Complete History of Comedy Abridged*. For The Justice Theatre Project: *All the Way*. Preston can be seen next as Theatre in the Park's production of *Henry V*.

## Kat Cupp

As: Maggie (*Disaster at Lakeview*), Isabella (*Regrets of Man*) & Bartender (*Through the Years*)

Kat is a senior at NC State University studying Communication Media and Theatre. They have been doing theater for five years. Burning Coal credits: *KidsWrite Festival 2023* ("Agent"), *CATS* ("Grizabella"), *Arcadia* (ASM/Board Op), and *A Little Night Music* (Assistant Director). Cary Players credits: *Fiddler on the Roof* ("Ensemble/Featured Dancer"). Notable NCSU University Theatre credits: *The Spongebob Musical* ("Sandy Cheeks") and *The Crucible* ("Abigail Williams"). Miscellaneous credits: Dustin Britt's *Corpus Christi* ("Philip / Joseph / Mrs. McElroy / Carpenter / Pontius Pilate"). Kat wants to thank their friends and family for all of their support, and hopes you enjoy the show!



## Ren Gallon

As: Collette/Producer (*Disaster at Lakeview*) & Mistress Gwyndolyn Gucci (*To Be Deceased*)

For Burning Coal: *Disaster at Lakeview*, *To Be Deceased*, and *1960*. For other companies: *The Aliens* (eggNYMPHartistcollective), *The View From Here* (Actors Training Ground), etc. Ren has been in the dramatics for 8 years. They have worked with Nathalie Ray, Tanner Lagasca, Bryan Pridgen, among others.

## Will Godby

As: Charles (*Through the Years*) & Sir Colin White (*To Be Deceased*)

For Burning Coal: *A Little Night Music* (Frid) and *Butterfly Wings* (Actor 1). For other companies: *Sweet Charity* (Meredith College), *Curtains* (Raleigh Little Theatre), *title of show* (NC State TheatreFest), *Muse* (NC State University Theatre), *Urinetown* (NC State University Theatre). Will is a Raleigh actor and NC State graduate who has worked twice before with Burning Coal Theatre Company and is happy to be in his first production of *Kidswrite*. Will is excited to be moving to New York City at the end of the summer to pursue acting professionally.



## Holden Hansen

As: Brandon (*Disaster at Lakeview*) & Jonathan Cage (*Regrets of Man*)

Holden is a Professor of Theatre at UNCP, where he has been teaching and directing since 1997. Film credits include *42* (Directed by Academy Award Winner for Best Screenplay Brian Helgeland), and *Arthur Newman* (with Academy Award Winner for Best Actor Colin Firth and Emily Blunt). TV credits include: *Bessie* (with Queen Latifah), *Death in Small Doses*, *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. Recent stage credits include:

(For Burning Coal Theatre) *The Container* (Ahmad), *Written on the Heart* (Thomson), *The Heretic* (Professor Kevin Maloney), *The Seafarer* (Sharky) (with Obie Award winner Randolph Curtis Rand), *Inherit the Wind* (E.K. Hornbeck), *Hamlet* (Claudius), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon/Theseus). For Raleigh's Hot Summer Nights: *Gods of Autumn* (with Tony Award Winner for Best Actor in a Musical Jarrod Emick and Jessica Phillips), *Wait Until Dark* (Mike Talman). For Cape Fear Regional Theatre: *Driving Miss Daisy* (Boolie) (with Bo Thorpe and Lawrence Hamilton). For Givens Performing Arts Center's Professional Artist Series: *Romeo and Juliet* (Montague), *The Three Musketeers* (Treville). For Uprising Theatre Company's Shakespeare in the Pines: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Egeus). Holden is a company member of the Burning Coal Theatre Company in Raleigh, NC, and is the recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award (2017-18) and the UNCP Adolph L. Dial Endowed Award for Scholarship/Creative Work (2012).



### **Laura Jenkins**

As: Sister Martha (*Regrets of Man*) & Lady Linh Angevin-Williams (*To Be Deceased*)

Laura is excited to return for another *KidsWrite* at Burning Coal. Some favorite productions include *Pirates of Penzance* and *Taming of the Shrew* at RLT, *Quilters* at DeepDish, *Sweet Delilah Swim Club* at TIP, and *Sunday in the Park with George* at Buring Coal, in which she got to perform with her daughter. A special thanks to an extraordinary group of directors, actors and crew, not to mention our fabulous young playwrights. In her secret life, Laura practices law.



### **Devin Lackey**

As: Mitchell (*Through the Years*) & Butler (*To Be Deceased*)

Devin is an actor based in Raleigh, and a graduate of NC State University. Devin is thrilled to be performing in his second production with Burning Coal after recently performing in *A Little Night Music*. Select credits include: *Fun Home* (Roy/Mark/Bobby Jeremey, NRACT), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Eddie, NRACT), *The Dead Man* (Yosef, Justice Theater Project), *Urinetown* (Tiny Tom/Bobby Strong U/s, Justice Theater Project), *Away Home* (Ensemble, Honest Pint), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Patrick Star, NC State University Theater), and *Sweet Charity* (Herman, Meredith College Theater). Devin wants to thank his loved ones for all of the love and support they have provided, and he hopes that everyone enjoys this production of *KidsWrite*!



### **Abby Patrick**

As: McKenzie (*Through the Years*) & Miss Rosabella (*To Be Deceased*)

Abby is so excited to be performing in *KidsWrite* for the second time! Other credits include Oobladee in *My Wonderful Birthday Suit*, Donny Caplan in *Save the Earth*, Andrea Brayden, Beth March in *Little Women*, Burke/Mrs. Wyatt in *An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe*, and Diana Barry in *Anne of Green Gables*.



# Playwrights



## **Carson Adams** (*Through the Years*)

Carson, age 12, is a sixth grader at Our Lady of Lourdes School and has been acting and performing improv comedy for 2.5 years. He has been in productions of *Peter Pan* and *The Lion King*.

## **Noah Howard** (*Regrets of Man*)

Noah is a playwright, actor, and theatre artist in the 8th grade at Fuquay-Varina Middle School. He has served as tech director, as well as performed as Gleb in *Anastasia* and Noah in an original play he wrote with his classmates, *Alls bad that ends sad*. Upcoming performances include his role as Creon in new work *The Only Living Ismene*, an adaptation of *Antigone*. *Regrets of Man* is his first play.



## **Avery Seppala** (*Disaster at Lakeview*)

Avery is a junior at Enloe High School, and enjoys performing and playwriting. She is a member of Enloe's Actors Ensemble, and has performed in shows such as *110 Stories*, *Matilda*, as well as having been stage manager for the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.





### ***TO BE DECEASED* Team**

**Brynn Bolick, Sophia Moore, Bridget Morin, Lavie Nguyen, Gibson Scoggins, and Morgan Strickland** have acted in a total of 11 shows; the only show they've acted in all together is *TBD - TO BE DECEASED*. They are in the Advanced Acting Class at Franklin Academy. The idea for this show was inspired by Agatha Christie's famous mystery novels, and the playwrights wanted to feature the theme of family at a murder mystery masquerade party.

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Join us at the Murphey School for our 2024-2025 season as we delve into the words of great modern wordsmiths and unpack what it means to be human.



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by Michael Frayn  
October 10-27, 2024

## **The Rainmaker**

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## **Paint Me This House Of Love**

by Chelsea Woolley  
January 30-February 16, 2025

## **Being Chaka**

by Tara Amber, Chuk Obasi,  
and Nalini Sharma March  
13-30, 2025

## **Merrily We Roll Along**

by Stephen Sondheim  
and George Furth  
April 10-27, 2025



**Season Subscriptions  
now available!**

# TAKE A SEAT

Join us in the next phase of our Fuel the Fire campaign as we raise funds to replace the seating in the Murphey School Auditorium

Since our first show at the Murphey School in 2008, our chairs have witnessed over 100 Burning Coal productions, as well as classes, workshops, guest productions, and private events. No wonder our chairs look a little tired!

By donating to our **Take a Seat Chair Campaign**, you can contribute to the next 100 productions!



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Thank you to everyone who  
helped make

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possible!

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