

Artistic Director's Notes

"How did we get to be here? What was the moment?" So go the lyrics to one of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's songs early in *Merrily We Roll Along*. I've been thinking about those questions as we worked on this piece. I am also thinking about Mr. Sondheim and his intellectual bookend in the non-musical world, Tom Stoppard, who's first big success in the theatre (R&G) included a similar question. With R and G, on the verge of being hanged, one turns to the other and says "There must have been a time when we could have said 'no'." Same question, written within a decade by two of the great, complicated writers of the century. And then the question: why are they so reluctant, throughout their careers, to address politics head on. Both rose to fame in that most tumultuous of times, roughly considered "the Sixties". Is it possible that they missed it? That their eyes, ears and noses were so firmly pre-occupied with their storytelling that they missed the biggest stories of their time?

Merrily covers roughly a 20 year stretch from 1957 to 1976 (with the story being told backwards, of course). Those were some pretty eventful years. In 1957, the career militarist Dwight Eisenhower was elected to a second term. In 1976, one James Earl Carter , Jr. was elected President. In between, the years were filled with one whiplash moment after another, from Eisenhower's own warning about the Military Industrial Complex, to the election of John F. Kennedy, the Bay of Pigs (resulting in the firing of Allen Dulles from the Agency he built, the CIA), the Cuban Missile Crises, the killing of Patrice Lumumba, the assassination of JFK, followed within the decade of his brother, Robert F. Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and later, Fred Hampton. It saw the Civil Rights Movement blossom, the March on Washington, Selma, the riotous 1968 Democratic National Convention, the First Man on the Moon, Watergate, the Pentagon Papers, Roe vs. Wade and the Equal Rights Amendment. And that doesn't even mention the explosion of art, music, dance, theatre, film. Heck, the first Barbie Doll appeared during this time, along with Led Zeppelin, Charles Manson and Pet Rocks. Talk about whiplash moments!

It was a period when the Beatles arrived, Patty Hearst joined the SLA, and John F. Kennedy set to rest (temporarily) the awful specter of McCarthyism when he said "No government or social system is so evil that its people must be considered as lacking in virtue." Months later, he was dead ... and his successor had appointed Allen Dulles to the Warren Commission. "Nothing to see here, folks." It was a period when "Watergate" became a household word and Johnny Rotten sang "Don't know what I want, but I know how to get it!" and John Denver sang about a Rocky Mountain High, when Disco soared and so did the price of gasoline, when China was 'opened to the West' and Iran closed.

"How did we get to be here? What was the moment?". Take your pick.

I could go on and on. And of course all of this is just a guess. But my guess is that somewhere in that morass of moral uncertainty lies the answer to "How did we get to be here? What was the moment?" By why is Sondheim so unwilling to 'go there' in their work? Part of the answer may lie in the material he *did* choose to examine. In *Company*, he looks at the decline of social structures in urban settings. In *Passion*, infidelity. In *Sunday in the Park* he asks how mass media has affected the work of artists ("the act of observing an object *changes* it", after all). In *Into the Woods* he asks "what stories are we telling our children?" and in *Pacific Overtures* he looks at the impact of colonialism on indigenous populations. Okay, that last one is pretty political, but most of his work is not. Or is it? Could it be that Sondheim (and Stoppard) were saying that the personal *is* the political? That we let ourselves off easy by deciding "It's just business" is a coverall excuse and that we, as citizens, have nothing to worry about as long as the citadels of commerce stay separate from our cozy personal life.

-Jerome Davis/April 5, 2025

BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY SM Jerome Davis, Artistic Director Simmie Kastner, Managing Director

Presents

Merrily We Roll Along

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Book by George Furth

> Directed by Jerome Davis

Music Director Christian Stahr

Choreographer Genevieve 'Gigi' Juras

Production Stage Manager George Waller

Act One: 70 minutes/ Intermission: 15 / Act Two 60 minutes

Lighting Design Matthew Adelson Scenery Design Joe Johnson Costumes Design Stacey Herrison Properties Samantha Gallup Sound Design Juan Isler Technical Director/Master Electrician Barry Jaked Scenic Charge Artist Meredith Riggan House Manager Carry Vaughan-Sprouse Assistant to the Director/Board Op Addison Florio Asst. Stage Managers Cori Ann Holder, Abby Patrick, Courtney Pisano Assistant to the Costumer Kjerstin Anderson Assistant to the Lighting Designer Juliana Babcock Assistant to the Scenic Artist ColeTrain

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Burning Coal is a member of Theatre Communications Group, a national consortium of professional theatres, the NC Theatre Conference, Arts NC, NC Center for Non-Profits and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance.

CAST (In Alphabetical Order)

	Terry/Bunker/Newsman Beth Shepard
Terri Crymes	Newswoman/Photographer/1st Auditionee
	Jerome/Mr. Spencer
Byron Jennings	Charley Kringas
	Joe Josephson
Philip Kim	
Clayton Mack	Franklin, Jr.
Astrid Maldonado	Stage Manager/Dancer
Katie Milligan	Gussie
Nunna Noe	Meg Kincaid
Natalie Reder	Mary Flynn
Emma Roe	К.Т.
Daniel Ryder	Franklin Shepard
Gabriella Terrero	Make-up Artist/Dancer
Natalie Turgeon	Dory/Evelyn/Pianist
Matt Verner	RU/Musician on Subway
Sarah Winter	Scotty/Mrs. Spencer

Orchestra

Daniel Hayden, Clarinet, Sax Scott Lane, Percussion Susannah (Suz) Longest, Double Bass Ada Morton, Trumpet Christian Stahr, Conductor and Piano

Board of Directors

Pamela Blizzard Jerome Davis Grace Gregson Martha Huelsbeck Simmie Kastner Deborah Keefe Paul Leone Jordan Lichtenheld Adam O'Brien Greg Paul David Potorti Elaine Quagliata Gwynn Swinson Cecilia Zuvic

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

Matthew E. Adelson (Lighting Designer) has designed extensively for Burning Coal since 1998, including all of their work in London, and their recent production of *A Little Night Music*. Other recent productions include: *The Book of Will* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), *Night at the Speakeasy* and *Dog People* (Great Barrington Public Theater), *The Weir* and *A Christmas Carol* (Berkshire Theatre Group). Matthew is the Production Manager for the Five College Dance Department (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith and the University of Massachusetts Amherst) and is a graduate of the Yale Drama School.

Dylan Bailey (Bunker/Newscaster). For The Justice Theatre Project: *The Dead Man, Urinetown, Man of La Mancha,* and *We Are Proud to Present…* For Pure Life Theatre: *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds,* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.* For Sweet Tea Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* and *Richard III.* For Seed Art Share: *Trick-or-Treat, Mr. McGregor,* and *A Night at the City of Raleigh Museum.* For Raleigh Little Theatre: *All Smiles.* For Theatre in the Park: *The Old Man and the Old Moon.* For OdysseyStage: *Shinsei.* When Dylan is not onstage in the Triangle he can be found teaching the next generation of theatre artists at various studios and theatres or writing original children's plays.

Natalie Blackman (Beth). For Burning Coal: *A Little Night Music, Butterfly Wings.* New York credits include appearances at The Duke on 42nd Street, Circle in the Square, Theatre Row, the New Ohio Theatre, and The Tank. Regional credits include Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pioneer Theatre Company, Penfold Theatre Company, and the Classic Theatre of San Antonio. Her solo show, *Disorder*, was a bestseller and award winner at the United Solo Festival in New York, the world's largest solo theatre festival. Blackman currently serves as Assistant Professor of Voice and Acting at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Blackman is a certified teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework® and Knight-Thompson Speechwork. Blackman holds an MFA in Classical Acting and Civic Engagement from Illinois State and a BFA from the University of Utah's Actor Training Program. <u>natalieblackman.com</u>

Terri Crymes (Newswoman/Photographer/First Girl). Terri is thrilled to be making her Burning Coal debut. A somewhat recent transplant from the Midwest, Terri earned her BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida. Regional: *Little Shop of Horrors, Vote, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Storyville, Buddy:The Buddy Holly Story, A Christmas Carol Justice Theater Project: The Lifespan of a Fact. Raleigh Little Theatre: Trouble in Mind, Doubt.* Terri thanks her family and friends for their enduring love and support. Jerome Davis (Director). For Burning Coal Theatre: Copenhagen, A Little Night Music, Arcadia, Evita, Ashe in Johannesburg, The Weir (twice), Rat in the Skulll, Pentecost, Winding the Ball, Steward of Christendom, Night & Day, Company, Road to Mecca (twice), Juno & the Paycock, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Taming of the Shrew, Inherit the Wind, Hamlet, Hysteria, Prisoner's Dilemma, 1960, The Seafarer, Shape of the Table, Enron, Jude the Obscure Parts 1 & 2, Shining City, The Heretic, Iron Curtain Trilogy (Raleigh and London), Sunday in the Park with George, Spoonface Steinberg, Written on the Heart, Dark Vanilla Jungle (London), Iphigenia in Splott (Raleigh and DC). Acting: Love's Labours Lost, *Mound Builders, St. Nicholas, Skylight* and *Talley's Folly* (Raleigh and London). Also, *Skylight* in Orlando and *King Lear* (Lear/Wilmington). Other: *See How They* Run (Southern Pines), Twelfth Night in Apex and Turn of the Screw for NC Opera. Jerry worked with or studied with Uta Hagen, Adrian Hall, Richard Jenkins, Hope Davis, Horton Foote, Denis O'Hare, Nikos Psacharapolous, Julie Bovasso, Ralph Waite, Oliver Platt, Ben Gazzarra and Ellen Burstyn at Trinity Rep (Providence), People's Light & Theatre (Philadelphia), NJ Shakespeare, SoHo Rep, Barrow Group, Columbia University, Phoenix Theatre (SUNY/Purchase). This is his 28th year running Burning Coal which he and his wife Simmie Kastner founded in 1995. He received the 2019 Raleigh Medal of Arts.

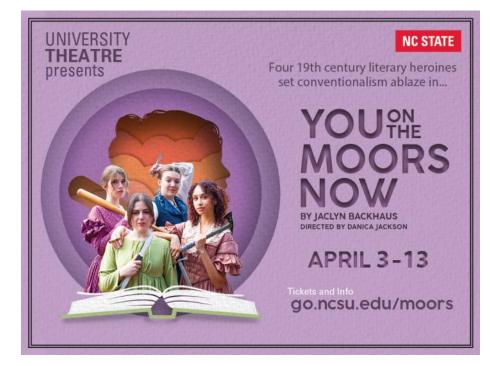
Addison Florio (Assistant to the Director) is an early high school graduate from SCORE Academy and is enrolled at Cape Fear Community College in pursuit of studying the arts and film. Addison is delighted to be joining this production of *Merrily We Roll Along* as assistant director. Addison has been involved in the arts from an early age beginning on stage with NC Theatre Conservatory's *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.* Addison has since continued her involvement in the arts and has expanded her work to stage management, production crew, design, and assistant directing. Works involve: *Burning Coal's Arcadia, Moonlight, Hymn, A little Night Music, KidsWrite 23/24, Copenhagen, The Rainmaker, Paint Me This House Of Love* etc. Addison applauds the cast and crew for their hard work and would like to thank the audience for their support.

Samantha Gallup (Props) grew up in Raleigh and is thrilled to be working with Burning Coal on this production! She holds a B.A. in Music Performance from Case Western Reserve University, and was first introduced to *Merrily We Roll Along* when she played for the show in college. By day, she manages operations for the North Carolina Symphony, and by night, she works on the latest hobby project: building a giant mushroom, creating various cosplays, or fiddling around on mandolin. Thank you to the production team for the warm welcome. Logan Hammersley Cox (Jerome, Mr. Spencer). For Little Theater of Winston-Salem: *Pride & Prejudice: A Musical Comedy, The Producers, Something Rotten, Guys and Dolls, The Drowsy Chaperone.* For Community Theater of Greensboro: *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.* For Studio 1: *Spamalot, The Scarlet Pimpernel, She Stoops to Conquer.* For UNC-Greensboro: *The Impresario, Trial by Jury, The Mikado.* For Orange Community Players: *Bye Bye Birdie, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.* Logan is ecstatic to be joining such a talented group as Burning Coal Theater for the first time!

Stacey Herrison (Costume Designer) is a Missouri-based costume designer and technician and the current Costume Studio Supervisor for University of Missouri at Kansas City - Conservatory. Stacey holds a BA in Theatre from Henderson State University and an MFA in Costume Design from Texas State University. Their TSU design credits include The Tempest, The Rivals, and A Chorus Line. Arkansas design credits include Driving Miss Daisy, The Producers, and RENT at Argenta Contemporary Theatre and Guys and Dolls at Arkansas Repertory Theatre. They have also designed several shows here at Burning Coal Theater in Raleigh, North Carolina including Camelot, Evita, A Hundred Words for Snow, I And You, A Little Night Music, and The Life of Galileo. They are also currently designing Escape to Margaritaville at Omaha Community Playhouse. Stacey received the KCACTF Region 6 Barbizon Award for Excellence in Costume Design for A Chorus Line in 2018 and the SETC Graduate Costume Design Award for The Tempest in 2019. This will be Stacey's eighth time here at Burning Coal and they're very excited for the opportunity to create in such a phenomenal space with even more phenomenal people! stacevherrison.com

Cori Ann Holder (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Durham native with a B.M. in Musical Theatre Performance from UNC Pembroke. She enjoyed her time performing at Jordan High School and UNCP and is thrilled to be working with Burning Coal again! She has previously worked as the Stage Manager and Program Coordinator at Center Theater Company in Carrboro, NC. Love to her parents, brother, husband, and cats. Credits: *Little Mermaid Jr.* (SM), *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (SM), *Silent Sky* (SM), *A Christmas Carol* (ASM), *and Paint Me This House of Love* (ASM).

Byron Jennings II (Charley): Byron is excited to be returning to the stages of Burning Coal in yet another great Sondheim show! For Burning Coal Theatre: Christian in *Ruined*, Marc in *Art*, Bruce in *The Normal Heart*, Colin Powell in *Stuff Happens, the one-man show, Until the Flood*, Bernard in *Arcadia*, Gil in *Hymn*, and Count Carl Magnus-Malcolm in *A Little Night Music*. For NC State University Theatre: Coalhouse Walker, Jr. in *Ragtime*. For Justice Theatre: Henry Drummond in *Inherit the Wind*, Dr. Jason Posner in *Wit*, and Coalhouse Walker, Jr. in *Ragtime*. For Little Green Pig: Lopakhin in *Cherry Orchard*. For Bare Theatre: Othello in *Othello*. For Deep Dish Theatre: Williamson in *Glengarry Glen Ross*. All the thanks and love to supporters of local theater



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Genevieve 'Gigi' Juras (Choreography) *she/her. Very grateful and thrilled to be back at Burning Coal! Recent choreography/direction: A Little Night Music* (Burning Coal), *Barbecue* (Theatre Raleigh, Asst. Dir.), *moon glow--hearth heat Reading* (La MaMa ETC), *Laure Staged Reading* (The Tank NYC, New York Theatre Workshop). Production/stage management: Theatre Raleigh, Soho Rep, Mabou Mines, Broadway's *A Beautiful Noise*. American Dance Festival 2024, La MaMa Umbria International Symposium 2024. Dedicated math tutor and Nerd! Overwhelming thanks to Jerry, George, Team Stage Management, Christian, Sarah, Logan, Byron for keeping us dancing, M + D + B + Gma.

David Keats (Joe Josephson). For Justice Theatre Project: *A Few Good Men.* For Raleigh Little Theatre: *Trouble in Mind.* Dave is thrilled to make his debut at Burning Coal. When not at work, Dave is playing with his band All the Lights or writing and recording hummable songs with his uber-talented wife, Kelley Keats. To Kelley, McCallum, and Avery - thank you for all your love and support!

Philip Kim (Tyler). For Justice Theater Project: *12 Angry Jurors. C*hanwoo is excited to embark on his debut at the Burning Coal Theatre! His journey began with the role of Juror #5 in *12 Angry Jurors* at the Justice Theater Project, igniting his passion for acting. He looks forward to exploring his character Tyler and hopes to bring depth and emotion to the role.

Scott Lane (Drums/Percussion). For Burning Coal Theatre: *Matilda*. For New Orleans Theatre: *West Side Story*. For North Carolina Theatre: *Evita, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, My Fair Lady, Hairspray, Dreamgirls, Dancing' In The Rain, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Annie, Miss Saigon, Chess, Crazy for You, The Sound of Music, The Wizard of Oz, 1776, Annie Get Your Gun, Man of La Mancha.* For US National Tour: *Hello, Dolly!, Ragtime.* Scott is excited to be part of the *Merrily We Roll Along* production.

Susannah Lauber (Bass). For Furman University Pauper Players: *Hairspray, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown.* This is Susannah's first show at Burning Coal and she is excited to be returning to the world of musical theater.

Clayton Mack III (Frank Jr.). For Allie Mae Carnes Studio: *Into the Woods Jr., James and the Giant Peach Jr.* For Starbright Youth Theater: *Newsies Jr., Willy Wonka Jr.* For Justice Theater Project: *Annie.* For Raleigh ACT: *Footloose.* Clayton would like to thank his parents for making his acting career come to life! He also wants to thank Ms. Alli, Ms. Micaela, Mr. Matthew, and Mr. Salvado who have assisted with his acting journey.

Sarah-Winter WEB & DIGITAL DESIGN

www.sarahlynnwinter.com

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Ruth Ann Wimmer

Astrid Paola Maldonado (Ensemble). For Burning Coal Theatre: *Paint Me This House of Love, and Being Chaka.* For SFASU Theater: *The 39 Steps, Wind in the Willows, Spanish For Estranged Latin Kids, Ajax in Iraq, Our Town, and Dog Sees God.* For Theatre Suburbia: *Eliminating Alice.* Astrid is thrilled to be returning to the Burning Coal stage and working with such an amazing group of artists.

Katie Milligan (Gussie). For Burning Coal Theatre: *Ex-Boyfriends* and *Bringing Them Home* (Oakwood Cemetery Series). For OdysseyStage: *Ona*. For Sweet Tea Shakespeare: *Richard III* and *A Little Princess*. For North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre: *DOT*. For Virginia Samford Theatre: *Tartuffe, You Can't Take it with You*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Katie is thrilled to work with this wonderful cast, crew, and production team at Burning Coal Theatre Company..

Adah Morton (Trumpet). This is Adah's first time being a part of a production here at Burning Coal Theater, and she is happy to be joining us!

Nunna Noe (Meg Kincaid). For Burning Coal Theatre: *A Little Night Music*. For Raleigh Little Theatre: *Hands on a Hardbody* and *Cinderella*. For NRACT: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. For The Cary Players: *The Addams Family Musical*. For Vixen Theatre Company: *A Kid Like Jake*. For Lee St. Theatre: *Fun Home, 9 to 5: The Musical,* and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. Nunna is delighted to be returning to the Burning Coal stage—especially to "roll along" in *Merrily*!

Abby Patrick (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be working at Burning Coal again! Her favorite backstage credits include *Copenhagen* at Burning Coal and *Dracula* at William Peace University. She's also been on stage at Burning Coal in KidsWrite and was most recently in the Lite Theatre Festival.

Courtney Pisano (Assistant Stage Manager). For Burning Coal Theatre: *Paint Me This House of Love, Copenhagen, A Little Night Music, Hymn, Moonlight, Arcadia, Talley's Folly in London, The Life of Galileo, Art, Evita, A Hundred Words For Snow, Talley's Folly, Camelot, Oakwood Series (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016), KidsWright (2018, 2013, 2009), Great Celestial Cow, Ashe in Johannesburg, The Weir, As You Like It, etc.* Courtney is a Burning Coal Company Member, and graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a degree in Media Production – Go Heels! She would like to thank her parents for all the support they have shown her over the years! She will miss them when they move. Have a great retirement Madre and Padre. I will visit you often.

Natalie Reder (Mary Flynn). For Burning Coal Theater: Guinevere in *Camelot*, Dot in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Fiona in *Brigadoon*. Off-off Broadway, Theater for the New City: *Walking From Romania*. Regional Theater: Marguerite in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Maria in *West Side Story*, Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, Serena Katz in *Fame*. University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music: Ruth Sherwood in *Wonderful Town*. For Jeff, Ellie, Arthur, my reasons for singing.

Meredith Riggan (Scenic Charge Artist). Meredith is a North Carolina based artist and is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre Company for the

production of *Merrily We Roll Along.* This will be Meredith's 9th season painting for Burning Coal Theatre. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Scenic Art from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Meredith has worked as the Scenic Charge Artist at several theatres around North Carolina including 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, along with several freelance jobs such as painting for The International Festival and painting custom pet portraits and works of art.

Daniel Ryder (Frank) is a voice actor and actor based in Raleigh. They first fell in love with acting when they realized it was a path to expressing their inner thoughts in a way others could more clearly understand them. Through theatre, they have found a path to creating meaningful, truthful masks through which to portray the magic that is the human spectrum. You may have seen them as Septimus in Burning Coal's *Arcadia*, or heard their voice narrating your favorite audiobook title. If you want to contact them or check out more of their work, follow them at www.danielrydervoices.com.

Emma Roe (K.T.) For Scrape Paper Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*. For University Theatre: *The Ghost of Splinter Cove.* For Se7en: *Touche.* For William Peace University: *Death By Design, The Wedding Singer, Antigone, Cinderella, Zombie Prom, and The Wolves.* For Orange Community Players: *Willy Wonka, Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins, Oklahoma, Li'l Abner, Annie, Guys and Dolls, Seussical, Cinderella, Dames at Sea, and Once Upon a Mattress.* For RTHS Raptor Repertory: *Much Ado About Nothing, Henry V(ideo), Little Shop of Horrors, and Almost Maine.* Emma is thrilled to be doing her first Burning Coal production!

Christian L. Stahr (Music Director). For Burning Coal: MD for *A Little Night Music, Sunday in the Park with George, Spoonface Steinberg* and Composer for *Copenhagen*. For Raleigh Little Theatre: MD and Orchestrator for *Cinderella. I*h his hometown of Sarpsborg, Norway, Christian composed and MD'ed the musical *St. Olaf the Lucky One.* While living in New York City, he worked as the Director of Culture at the Norwegian Seamen's Church and the Pianist for the Dramatists Guild Fund. He holds an MFA from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. Christian is thrilled to be back at Burning Coal, working with this amazing team! He is so thankful to his family and friends for all the love and support - especially to his wife, Sarah Lynn Winter and their cats Dwight and Norman. Check out Christian's music at <u>www.stahrmusic.com</u>.

Gabriella Terrero (Makeup Artist/Dancer) is a singer and lyricist who has recently dipped into theatre realm in the last few years. Previous experience includes NRACT's 2024 production of *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, as Fatimah; Theatre in the Park's *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*, as Lottie/Carmen; and the ensemble in McGregor Hall's 2024 summer production of *SpongeBob Square Pants: The Musical*. Her talents have been recognized with 2024 RLT Spotlight Performer Award, a testament to her hard work. Additionally, she served as an assistant stage manager last year for Burning Coal's 2024 productions of *Hymn, A Little Night Music, and Rainmaker*. Her other credits include appearances in RLT's 2023 winter production of *A Gift to Remember!* Gabriella has felt unstoppable in her theatre pursuits, and is excited to make her first

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appearance on stage here at Burning Coal Theatre for Merrily We Roll Along

ColeTrain (Shop Dog "Paint Assistant"). ColeTrain is excited to be a part of another production at Burning Coal Theatre. He has been "assisting" his Scenic Artist Mom in several theatres since he was 7 weeks old. He has no formal training in Scenic Art, but will retrieve a paint brush occasionally. He is great at supervising projects, looking cute, and tries to leave a paw print on every set. ColeTrain is a 10/10 good boy.

Natalie Turgeon (Dory/Evelyn/Pianist) is delighted to return to the Burning Coal stage. Credit includes *A Little Night Music*. For Southstream Productions: *Twelfth Night* and *This Doesn't End Well*. For Theatre in the Park: *Assassins* and *The Old Man and the Old Moon*. For Raleigh Little Theatre: *Hairspray, Sweeney Todd, Sister Act The Musical, Beehive The 60s Musical, Cinderella*. For NRACT: *Wild Party, The View Upstairs, 9-5 The Musical.* For Cary Players: *Legally Blonde, The Rainmaker, How to Succeed in Business.* Thank you, for choosing to support live, local theatre. Enjoy the show!

Matt Verner (Ru/Ensemble). For Musical Theatre Society Berlin: *Shrek the Musical. For Stone Soup Theatre Company: Into the Woods.* For Pioneer Theatre Company: *Twelfth Night.* For NRACT: *Dogfight.* For Theatre in the Park: *Hair.* For Deep Dish Theatre Company: *Journey's End.* Matt is thrilled to be making his Burning Coal debut and to return to the Triangle stage after 3 years.

George Waller (Production Stage Manager). *he/him. N*YC based stage manager, author, and frequent collaborator of New Dramatists and the 92nd Street Y; extremely excited to be back in NC and working with Jerry at Burning Coal again. Previous PSM credits at Burning Coal include: *A Little Night Music, Squidge, Moonlight, Arcadia.* Extreme thanks to the stage management team, to Christian and the musicians, and the whole of the cast. Special thank you to Gigi for teaching him how to do the hustle.

Sarah Lynn Winter (Scotty/Mrs.Spencer/Dance Captain). For Burning Coal Theatre: A Little Night Music, Sunday in the Park with George, and Romeo & Juliet. Off-Broadway: Freefall Frostbite. For Honest Pint Theatre: A Chorus Line. For Theatre in the Park: The 39 Steps, Psycho Beach Party. For Storybook Theatre: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. For Raleigh Little Theatre: The Rocky Horror Show, Spring Awakening, The Boyfriend, Ruthless, The Brementown Musicians, Hairspray, Cinderella (XXIX & XXX). For Cary Players: How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. For Bare Theatre: Titus Andronicus. For Seed Art Share: A Midsummer Night's Dream. Sarah is a Freelance Web Designer and Pilates Instructor who runs marathons in her spare time. She's grateful for another opportunity to perform on the Burning Coal stage - especially with her husband, Christian Stahr (MD)!

Special Thanks

City of Raleigh Arts Commission, NC Arts Council, United Arts of Wake County & Raleigh, Shubert Foundation . The Warner Fund . ManBites Dog Fund . Kevin Lord . Theatre in the Park. PlayMakers Repertory Company, David Ranii, Dennis Berfield and Raleigh Little Theatre, Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation, KD Kennedy's Family, Nick Karner, House Managers & Ushers all the wonderful volunteers who have helped make our theatre and this production strong.





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The Mansion of Many Apartments by Bronwen Carson produced by SoundingLine Arts

Ride the Cyclone by Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell presented by Pure Life Theatre

JUNE 9-29

224 POLK ST.

Sea Change by Tamara Kissane produced by Burning Coal Theatre

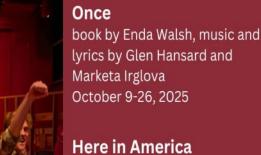
Forgive Us, Gustavito by Lucius Robinson, Becca Finney, & Tushar Matthew produced by The Otherland Ensemble





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My Fair Lady book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, music by Frederick Loewe April 9-26, 2026



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Connecting People With the Arts

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission nurtures creativity and enriches our community by championing the arts in Raleigh:

- Partnering with local cultural organizations
- Supporting arts programming
- Advocating for arts investment
- Presenting art exhibitions, public art and special events

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La Comisión de Artes de la Ciudad de Raleigh sustenta la creatividad y enriquece a nuestra comunidad, favoreciendo las artes en Raleigh por medio de:

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This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Burning Coal is supported in part by the City of Raleigh through a grant from the Raleigh Arts Commission. Burning Coal is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corp.



Raleigh Arts

North Carolina

Arts Council

BURNING COAL PRODUCTION HISTORY 1997/98 Season

Rat in the Skull by Ron Hutchinson-RP Love's Labours Lost by Shakespeare Pentecost by David Edgar -RP

1998/99 Season

Winding the Ball by Alex Finlayson—AP Einstein's Dreams by Kipp Cheng—WP Question of Mercy by David Rabe —RP History of King Henrie the Fourth by R. Rand —WP

1999/00 Season

The Steward of Christendom by Sebastian Barry – RP St. Nicholas by Conor McPherson – RP Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare Night and Day by Tom Stoppard

2000/01 Season

The Weir by Conor McPherson — **RP** Macbeth by William Shakespeare Uncle Tom's Cabin by Rand and Kay — **WP** Watership Down by Deb Royals from Adams — **WP**

2001/02 Season A Dolf House by R. Rand from Ibsen —WP The Mound Builders by Lanford Wilson —RP Company by Sondheim and Furth Road to Mecca by Athol Fugard —RP

2002/2003 Season Travesties by Tom Sloppard — RP Juno and the Paycock by Sean O'Casey Tartuffe by R. Rand from Moliere — WP Cumbs from the Table of Joy by Lynn Nottage — RP

2003/2004 Season All the King's Men by Adrian Hall — WP Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett Man Who: Theid to Save the World by Davis/Kay (from Scott Anderson) — WP

2004/2005 Season James: Joyce's The Dead by Nelson & Davey — RP 90 in 90 by Jerome Oster / Safe House by Lydia Stryk — AP Lipstick Traces by Rude Mechs — RP Acidential Death of an Anarchist adapted by Simon Nye from Dario Fo — AP

<u>2005/2006 Season</u> Tarning of the Strew by William Shakespeare A New Warby Gip Hoppe — RP A New of the World'by David Hare **— RP** Miss Julie adapted by Kelsey Egan and Jack Lienke from Strindberg **— WP**

2006/2007 Season 1776 by Stone and Edwards

Einstein's Dreams by Kipp Cheng Penlecost by David Edgar Midsummer Night's Dream by Shakespeare

2007/2008 Season

Hamler by William Shakespeare Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Carson Kreitzer — RP Inherit the Wind by Lawrence and Lee Crowns by Regina Taylor — RP

2008/2009 Season The Prisoner's Dilemma by David Edgar — AP Hysteria by Terry Johnson — RP Twelfth Night by Wm. Shakespeare Way to Heaven by Nayorga & Johnson — AP 1960 by Ian Finley & Burning Coal — WP

2009/2010 Season Hair by Ragni, Rado & McDermott Much Ado About Nothing by Shakespeare The Seafarer by Conor McPherson — RP SECCA by Angus MacLachtan — MP Gee's Bend by Elyzabeth Wilder—RP

2010/2011 Season To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee St. Nicholas by Conor McPherson Crowns by Regina Taylor Blue by Kelly Doyle — WP The Shape of the Table by David Edgar — AP

2011/2012 Season Enron by Lucy Prebible — RP Henry I/ (on Trapeze) by Wm Shakespeare Man of La Mancha by Danion, Leigh & Wasserman Jude the Obscure, Parts J & 2 by Finley, Fitts & Benedict (Hardy) — WP

2012/2013 Season Brigadoon by Lerner & Loewe Shining City by McPherson—RP As You Like Itby Shakespeare Good by C.P. Taylor Ruined by Lynn Nottage —RP

2013/2014 Season The Heretic by R. Bean —AP (3 Man Tempest) by Shakespeare Jesus Fund by T. Milner—WP Diary of Anne Frank by Hackett/Goodrich

2014/2015 Season tron Curtain TrilogyD Edgar WP Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare Sunday in the Park with George by Sondheim & Lapine

UNITED ARTS

SHUBERT FOUNDATION INC.

> 2015/2016 Season Asylum — WP The Wiz by Smalls & Brown Blue Sky by Clare Bayley— AP Spoonface Steinberg by L. Hall—AP

2016/2017 Season Skylight by David Hare Written on the Heart by D Edgar—AP Heisenberg by S. Stephens—RP The Royale by Marco Ramirez—RP

2017/2018 Season Darkside by Stoppard/P Floyd—RP Peter Pan & Wendy—WP The Normal Heart by L. Kramer King Charles III by M. Bartlett—RP

2018/2019 Season Stuff Happens by David Hare The Weir by Conor McPherson Ashe in Johannesburg by Hannah Benitez—WP The Great Celestial Cowby Sue Townsend—RP

2019/2020 Season The Container by Clare Bayley **RP** Camelot by Lerner & Loewe Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson (postponed)

2020/2021 Season A Hundred Words for Snow by Tatty Hennessey Until the Flood by Dael Orlandersmith **RP** Forever by Dael Orlandersmith **RP** Evita by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice

2021/2022 Season I and You by Lauren Gunderson The Road to Mecca by Athol Fugard Art by Yasmina Reza Galileo by David Edgar/Brecht RP

2022/2023 Season a great big wooly mammoth ... by Tatty Hennessey WP Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson Mima's Tale by Lynn Nottage RP The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov WP

2023/2024 Season Arcadia by Tom Stoppard Moonlight by Harold Pinter Hymn by Lolita Chakrabarti A Little Night Music by Sondheim and Furth

WP = World Premiere / AP = American Premiere / RP = Regional Premiere

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Take a Seat Campaign

After sixteen years of bringing quality professional theatre to downtown Raleigh, Burning Coal Theatre Company finally had to 'retire' our old audience chairs. We've replaced them with some of the very best quality chairs in the business, thanks to our "Take a Seat' campaign, and those who contributed. Thanks to all of them. If you'd still like to participate in the campaign by naming a chair with a plaque on the chair, or by getting your name added to this list, which will be in every one of our mainstage programs going forward until these new chairs themselves need to be replaced. The cost of naming a chair is \$500. We have approximately 50 more chairs to be named.

Jeanne Abmayr Anonymous William David Austin Julie Bagley Carla and Don Berryann Pamela Blizzard and Willis Lumpkin Alli Mae Carnes Lynda Clark Lucy Daniels Phyllis and Martin Demko Alec and Georgia Donaldson Jean Gross and Donald Miller LanYing Fan Ian Finley Forest Commons Abbe Fralix Friends of John Allore Martha Gerrity Linda Grew Mark and Carol Hewitt Martha Huelsbeck and Chris Bavolack Dave and Sue Huff Paul Leone **Griffin Lockett**

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"Thanks to the generosity of our Fuel the Fire donors, we are over 2/3rds of the way to our goal of raising \$300,000 to upgrade your Burning Coal experience. So far, we have been able to hire an in-house Technical Director/Facilities Manager, purchase critically needed infrastructure upgrades (hello, new light board!) and are increasing the production value of each show 10 to 20%. This increase includes things like being able to hire bright new talent and spend more on material goods that bring these stories to life. It doesn't take a physicist to do the math, however, and we need your help to get to the finish line! Please consider donating to Fuel the Fire today, and your name will be added to this illustrious 'cast' in all our 24/25 and 25/26 programs."

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