

THE LYRIC STAGE  
YOUR THEATRICAL HOME

FEB 25 - MAR 27

A legacy at stake.  
No money. No experience.  
No stopping them.

THE  
BOOK OF

*Will*

BY LAUREN  
GUNDERSON

DIRECTED BY  
COURTNEY  
O'CONNOR



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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Much of this play takes place in and around the Globe Theatre –often in the back rooms, where tears, laughter, and memories are all liberally shared. The actors, managers, and families of the King’s Men can’t escape these spaces.

I deeply understand that perspective. In times of joy or distress, I’ve found myself needing to be in a theatre. Once, after hearing a shelter-in-place order, I left the cafe I was in without thinking for the comfort of a theatre. When we lost a pillar of our theatrical community a few years ago, several

artists gathered at theatres across the city to tell stories, laugh, and mourn. When the restaurants were closed last year, Matt and I each celebrated Valentine’s Day here with our partners.

Frankly, the Lyric Stage is my Globe Theatre. Twenty years ago, Stage Manager Nerys Powell, Sarah Newhouse, and I worked on *The Miracle Worker*—my first show at the Lyric Stage. Over the years, I’ve directed Will McGarrah to play a director in *Stage Kiss* and Fred Sullivan Jr. to seduce his wife with mashed potatoes in *The Cake*. Six months ago, scenic designer Janie Howland, assistant director Alex Smith, Shani Farrell, and I worked on *Be Here Now*, my tenth show at the Lyric Stage.

The theatre is our place. Before, during, and after a rehearsal or performance, the theatre is where we think, share, grieve, and celebrate—it’s where we feel.

More than a play about how to make a book or how to honor Shakespeare’s works, this story is a love letter to what bonds us as artists to the stage. Thank you for being here, in our Globe, and letting us tell our story.

Courtney O’Connor  
Artistic Director

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The Lyric Stage Company of Boston  
Courtney O'Connor Artistic Director | Matt Chapuran Executive Director  
*presents*

THE BOOK OF  
*Will*

by  
**LAUREN GUNDERSON**  
Directed by  
**COURTNEY O'CONNOR**°

Scenic Design, **Janie E. Howland\*\***  
Costume Design, **Elisabetta Polito\*\***  
Lighting Design, **Christopher Brusberg**  
Sound Design, **Elizabeth Cahill**  
Props Artisan, **Sara Kenney**  
Assistant Director, **Alexandra Smith**  
Production Stage Manager, **Nerys Powell\***  
Assistant Stage Manager, **Pat-rice Rooney**

Featuring: **Joshua Wolf Coleman\***, **Scot Colford**, **Grace Experience\***,  
**Shani Farrell**, **Ed Hoopman\***, **Will McGarrahan\***, **Sarah Newhouse\***,  
**Fred Sullivan Jr.\***, **Hector Toledo Jr.**, and **Lewis D. Wheeler\***

Lyric Stage's 2021/22 Season sponsored by  
**G. Lee & Diana Humphrey** and **Bank of America**

Production sponsored by **René Morrissette & Joe Richard**  
Cast sponsored by **Alice Richmond & David Rosenbloom**  
Director Courtney O'Connor sponsored by **Sharon & John Parisi**

Originally commissioned and produced at the Denver Center Theatre Company  
A division of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts [Kent Thompson, Artistic Director]

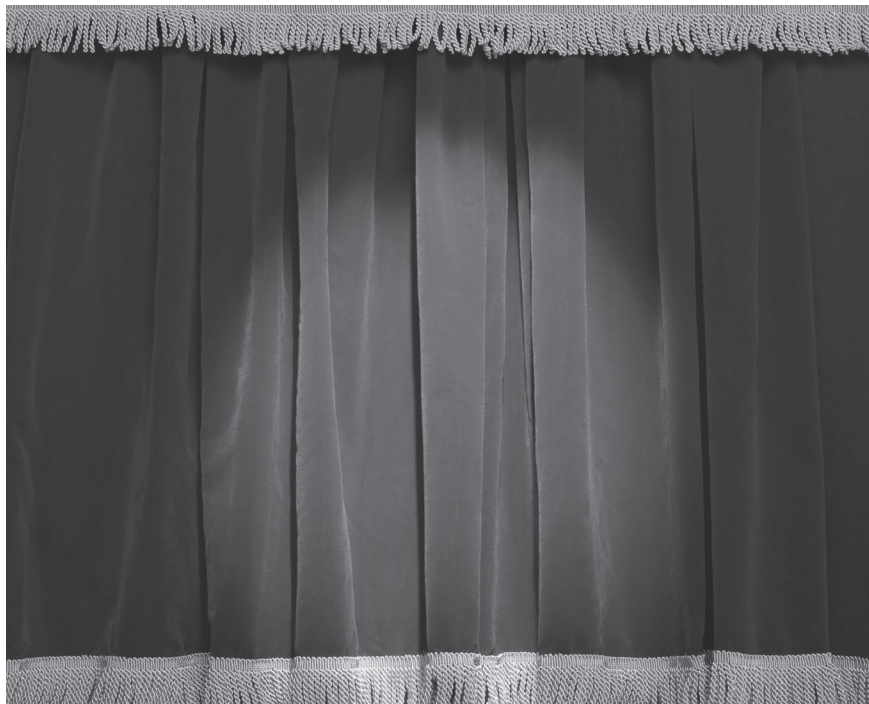
Subsequent Rolling World Premiere produced by Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Garrison, New York  
[Davis McCallum, Artistic Director; Kate Liberman, Managing Director]

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston operates under the NEAT Agreement with Actors' Equity Association and  
is a member of NEAT [The Producers' Association of New England Area Theaters], and StageSource.

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston is supported in part by a grant from The Massachusetts Cultural Council,  
a state agency, and The Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by The Massachusetts Cultural Council,  
administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

\*\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States  
\*\*Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE | \*Stage Directors and Choreographers Society





## Thanks for putting art in the heart of the community

Bank of America recognizes the Lyric Stage Company of Boston for its success in bringing the arts to performers and audiences throughout the community. We commend you on creating an opportunity for all to enjoy and share a cultural experience.

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## CAST

Joshua Wolf Coleman*	John Heminges
Scot Colford	Ralph Crane/Barman/Compositor (understudy Richard Burbage/Ben Jonson/et al)
Grace Experience*	Alice Heminges/Susannah Shakespeare
Shani Farrell	Elizabeth Condell/Anne Hathaway Shakespeare/Fruit Seller
Ed Hoopman*	Henry Condell
Will McGarrah*	Richard Burbage/William Jaggard
Sarah Newhouse*	Rebecca Heminges/Emilia Bassano Lanier
Fred Sullivan Jr.*	Ben Jonson/Barman 2/Sir Edward Dering
Hector Toledo Jr.	Marcus/Boy/Crier
Lewis D. Wheeler*	Ed Knight/Issac Jaggard (understudy Henry Condell/John Heminges)
Cassandra Meyer	Understudy Elizabeth Condell/Rebecca Heminges/ Alice Heminges/et al
Matt Ryan	Understudy Marcus/Ralph Crane/Ed Knight/et al

*\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

## RUNNING TIME

Approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes with one intermission

## SPECIAL THANKS

Chris Tedford, Brandeis University

**ABOUT YOUR LYRIC STAGE COMPANY OF BOSTON VISIT**

For more on how to contact us, Box Office hours, ticketing & performance policies, and other FAQs go to [lyricstage.com](http://lyricstage.com) & click on Your Visit.




**Joshua Wolf Coleman\*** (John Heminges)

- Lyric Stage: Debut. Television: *Lethal Weapon*, *Shamless*, *Bosch*, *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Castle*, *Scandal*, *Parthenood*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Terminator: Sarah Connor Chronicles*, *Studio 60, House*, *ER*, *The West Wing*. Hanover

Theatre: *Julius Caesar* (Brutus). American Repertory Theatre: *Your Favorite* (Museum). Gloucester Stage Company: *Think Of Me Tuesday* (Silent Investor). New Repertory Theatre: *Thurgood* (Thurgood Marshall). Central Square Theater: *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge), *Cloud 9* (Betty/Martin), *The Crucible* (Danforth). Joshua received his MFA at UCSD College. Special thanks to Courtney, to Annie and Faye, and to Luna.



**Scot Colford** (Ralph Crane/Barman/Compositor, Understudy; Richard Burbage/Ben Jonson/et al) - Lyric Stage: *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* (Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter). Fresh Ink: *The Earth Room* (George), *That Time the House Burned*

*Down* (Daddy), *Fire on Earth* (Bishop Tunstall/Soldier). Old State House: *Blood on the Snow* (Mr. Baker). Praxis Stage: *All My Sons* (Jim Bayless). Hub Theatre: *The Love of the Nightingale* (First Soldier/Chorus). Umbrella Stage: *La Cage Aux Folles* (Jacob). Project: *Shiver* (Wilhelm Grimm). | scotcolford.com



**Grace Experience\*** (Alice Heminges/Anne Hathaway Shakespeare) - Lyric

Stage: *The Thanksgiving Play* (Alicia), *The Wolves* (#14). Greater Boston Stage Company: *The 39 Steps* (Pamela, Annabella, Margaret). Berkshire Theatre Group: *Beauty and the Beast*

(Silly Girl). 59E59: *Grounded* (Emily). The George Street Playhouse: *Midwives* (Anne). Capital Repertory Theatre: *Some People Hear Thunder* (Anoush). Middlebury Acting Company: *Constellations* (Marianne), *The Turn of the Screw* (Governess). Heartwood Regional Theater: *Our Town* (Emily), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella). Cardinal Stage Company: *Frankenstein* (Agatha). Saint Michael's Playhouse, *Cinderella* (Cinderella). Film and Television: *The Flight Attendant*, *Zodiac*. | GraceExperience.com



**Shani Farrell** (Elizabeth Condell/Anne Hathaway Shakespeare/Fruit Seller)

- Lyric Stage: *Be Here Now* (Patty Cooper), *The Walking Plays Series 1*, Episodes 3-6 (Sojourner), *The Walking Plays Series 2/Greenway Series*, Episodes 2 & 3 (Anne Frances). Stageloft

Repertory Theater: *Boeing Boeing* (Gloria). Pilgrim Soul

Productions: *Vanya Sonya Masha Spike* (Cassandra). Mainstage Theatre Company: *Noises Off* (Mrs Clackett). The Umbrella Stage Company: *Fences* (Rose), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak). Worcester County Light Opera Club: *Chicago* (Velma Kelly). Theater at the Mount: *Sister Act*, *The Musical* (Dolores Van Cartier). Mainstage Theater Company: *Into the Woods* (The Witch). Clark University Musical Theater Club: *Avenue Q* (Gary Coleman). Shani is a graduate of Fitchburg State University with a bachelor's degree in Communications/Theater. She currently attends Emerson College obtaining her MFA in Theatre Education/Applied Theatre. She has been nominated for EMACT DASH award for best supporting actress in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Smitty) and was an IRENE RYAN nominee/semi-finalist in the 2015 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.



**Ed Hoopman\*** (Henry Condell) - Lyric

Stage: *Camelot* (Arthur), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Black Stache), *City of Angels* (Stone), *Dear Elizabeth* (Robert Lowell), *Animal Crackers* (Groucho), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack). Huntington Theatre: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Claudius), *Romeo and Juliet* (Prince),

*A Civil War Christmas*. Merrimack Repertory Theatre: *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*. Commonwealth Shakespeare: *Old Money*, *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Taming of the Shrew*. Gloucester Stage: *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Actors' Shakespeare Project: *Macbeth* and *Equivocation*. Boston Theater Co./Boch Center: *Finish Line*. New Repertory Theatre: *Ideation*, *Mister Roberts*, *Indulgences*. Charles Playhouse: *Shear Madness*. Mr. Hoopman is also an accomplished voiceover actor whose work can be heard both locally and nationally. | edhoopman.com



**Will McGarrah\*** (Richard Burbage/William Jaggard) - Lyric Stage: *Souvenir*

(Elliot Norton Award), *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Little Foxes*, *Road Show*, *Stage Kiss*, *Company*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Into the Woods*, *Death of a Salesman*,

*Becky's New Car*, *The Chosen*, *The Temperamentals*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Grey Gardens*, *November*, and *Dirty Blonde*. Other local credits include SpeakEasy Stage Company: *The View Upstairs*, *Bridges of Madison County*, *Casa Valentina*, *Big Fish*, *Far From Heaven*, *Next Fall*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Reckless*, *Some Men*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Five By Tenn*, *Company*, *The Last Sunday in June*, *Elegies: A Song Cycle*, *Ruthless!*, *A Class Act*, *A New Brain* and *The Usual Unusual* [free podcast play]. Greater Boston Stage Company: *Being Earnest* and *Mame*. Huntington Theatre: *A Raisin*

in the Sun. Gloucester Stage Company: *Nine Circles*, *The Wind in the Willows*, and *Happy Days*. Nora Theater: *The Moon For The Misbegotten* and *Buried Child*. Will worked as an actor, singer, and pianist for many years in Seattle before moving to Boston's South End.



**Sarah Newhouse\*** [Rebecca Heminges/Emilia Bassano Lanier] - Lyric Stage Company: *Legacy of Light*, *Red Herring*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *The Miracle Worker*. Actors' Shakespeare Project: *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Medea*.

American Repertory Theater: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *The King Stag*, *Macbeth*, *Picasso at the Lapin-Agile*. American Stage Festival: *Of Mice and Men*. Berkshire Theater Festival: *The Rose Tattoo*. Charles Playhouse: *Shear Madness*. Gloucester Stage Company: *The Norman Conquests*, *Fighting Over Beverley*. Greater Boston Stage Company: *La Salonnieres*, *The Apple Family Plays*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Picnic*, *The Sweepers*. Huntington Theatre: *We All Fall Down*. New Repertory Theatre: *DollHouse*. Film: *The Legend of Lucy Keyes*, *Dischord*, *Beneath Contempt*, and *I Feel Pretty*. Sarah is a graduate of The A.R.T. Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University and currently serves on the board of TCBF.



**Fred Sullivan, Jr.\*** [Ben Jonson] - Lyric Stage: *The Cake* [Tim]. Trinity Rep, 35 seasons 130 plays: *The Music Man* [Harold Hill], *Peter Pan* [Captain Hook], *Moon for the Misbegotten* [Tyrone], *Henry 4* [Falstaff], *Angels in America* [Joe]. Gamm Theatre, 25 seasons: *Red*

[Rothko], *The Winter's Tale* [Autolycus], *American Buffalo* [Donny]. Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: *King Lear* [Gloucester], *Midsummer* [Bottom], *As You Like It* [Jacques-Norton award], *Tempest* [Stephano], *Twelfth Night* [Malvolio]. Fred has acted at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Berkeley Rep, Dallas Theater Center, and New Jersey Shakespeare Festival. He has directed for Trinity Rep, Ocean State Theatre Company, Cape Rep, and Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. His movies include *Mr. Birthday*, *Vault*, *Saving Christmas* [with Ed Asner], and *Johnny and Clyde*. He teaches at RISD, at Gamm, and privately.

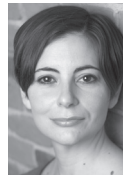


**Hector Toledo Jr.** [Marcus/Boy/Crier] - Lyric Stage: *Monsters in the Sky* [Kevin]. University of Massachusetts Boston: *Familia es Familia* [Mateo]. Hector is completing his MFA in Theatre Education at Emerson College in the hopes of becoming a theater professor. He was in the winning pair of the Irene Ryan Best Classical Scene award.



**Lewis D. Wheeler\*** [Ed Knight/Isaac Jaggard; Understudy: Henry Condell/John Heminges] - Lyric Stage: *The Importance of Being Earnest* [Algernon], *The Underpants* [Versati], *A Number* [B1/B2/Michael Black], *The Glass Menagerie* [Jim O'Connor]. SpeakEasy

Stage Company: *Pass Over* [Mister/Ossifer]. Merrimack Repertory Theatre: *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* [Mr. Darcy]. New Repertory Theatre: *Long Day's Journey Into Night* [Jamie]. Gloucester Stage: *To Kill a Mockingbird* [Atticus Finch]. Also, American Repertory Theater, Huntington Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Central Square Theater, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Greater Boston Stage Company, Cape Rep Theatre. Five seasons at Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater [WHAT], founding member Harbor Stage Company. Film and Television: *Don't Look Up*, *Little Women*, *Manchester by the Sea*, *Black Mass*, *Pink Panther 2*, *The Company Men*, *Louisa May Alcott* [PBS], *Brotherhood*, *City on a Hill*, *NOS4A2*. BA Cornell University, MFA American Film Institute. | lewisdwheeler.com



**Cassandra Meyer** [Understudy: Elizabeth/Rebecca/Alice/et al] - Lyric Stage: Debut. Flat Earth Theatre: *X* [Gilda], *Not Medea* [The Chorus], *Silent Sky* [Annie Jump Cannon], *The Engima Variations* [Abel Znorko/Lover]. Arts After Hours: *Midsummer* [Puck], *Henry V* [Dauphin/Williams], *Twelfth Night* [Olivia]. Maiden Phoenix: *The Winter's Tale* [Hermione/Crown]. Vagabond Theatre: *A Southern Victory* [Peggy Mitchell], *Burning Up The Dictionary* [Suzie-Fay]. Film: *Ascendants*, Charles River Media. Cassandra is a graduate of Northeastern University and has also studied at the Gaiety School of Acting in Ireland.



**Matt Ryan** [Understudy: Marcus/Ralph/Ed/et al] - Lyric Stage: Debut. Fresh Ink Theatre: *Martha's (b)Rainstorm* [Damien Argus]. Old State House: *Blood on the Snow* [John Hancock]. The Longwood Players: *Clybourne Park* [Karl/Steve], *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*

[Guildenstern]. American Repertory Theater: *The Donkey Show* [Bouncer]. Matt is a graduate of Emerson College with an MA in Theater Education and current Drama Teacher at Stoneham Central Middle School.

**Lauren Gunderson** [Playwright] was awarded the 2016 Lanford Wilson Award from the Dramatist Guild, the 2016 Otis Gurnsey Award for Emerging Writer, and the prestigious 2014 and 2018 Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for her plays, *I and You* and *The Book of Will*. She

co-authored the play *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* with Margot Melcon. *Bauer*, commissioned by San Francisco Playhouse, premiered there and in New York City at 59E59. Her play, *Silent Sky*, premiered at South Coast Rep in 2011 and was further developed and rewritten for TheatreWorks. Her world premiere of *Exit, Pursued By A Bear* has reached over 20 communities across the United States, winning "Best Comedy" accolades. Other works include *Toil and Trouble*, *The Taming*, her first musical, *The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful and Her Dog!*, *Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Tonight*, *By and By*, and *Firework*. Her first children's book based on *Dr. Wonderful* was released by Two Lions Publishing in 2017. She has developed plays with Second Stage, Red Bull, and Primary Stages in New York City; New Repertory Theatre in Boston; Playwrights Foundation, Crowded Fire, TheatreWorks, Aurora Theatre, and The Magic Theatre in San Francisco; Kitchen Dog Theater in Dallas; Synchronicity, Actor Express, and Horizon Theatre in Atlanta; JAW at Portland Center Stage in Portland; WORDBridge, Brave New Works, and others. Her work has received national praise and awards, including a Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award finalist, a Susan Smith Blackburn finalist, a Jane Chambers Award finalist, and winner of the Berrilla Kerr

Award for American Theatre, Global Age Project, Young Playwright's Award, Eric Bentley New Play Award, and Essential Theatre Prize.

**Courtney O'Connor\*** [Director/Artistic Director] joined the full-time staff of the Lyric Stage in 2018 and was named Artistic Director in 2020. She has directed several pieces for the Lyric Stage, including *Stones in His Pockets*, *Red Hot Patriot*, *The Cake*, and *Be Here Now*. Courtney is a senior affiliated faculty member in Performing Arts at Emerson College. In addition to directing for theatres and universities, Courtney has directed multiple site-specific productions at locations including Mount Auburn Cemetery and Boston's Old State House. Through her work with the Coyote Theatre Project, she oversaw the creation of more than 200 new 10-minute plays written by youths from Boston. Courtney has received the Elliot Norton award for her work as the Associate Director on the Lyric Stage's production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* and the Alan L. Stanzler Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Janie E. Howland\*\*** [Scenic Designer] – Lyric Stage: *Be Here Now*, *Pacific Overtures*. Recent designs: Bridgewater State University: *Richard III*. Prescott Park Arts Festival:



**SPEAKEASY STAGE**

**ONCE ON THIS ISLAND**

MAR 11 - APR 16, 2022

BOOK & LYRICS BY  
LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC BY  
STEPHEN FLAHERTY

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY  
LOUISE BRIDGES

DIRECTED BY  
PASCALE FLORESTAL

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY  
DAVID FREEMAN COLEMAN

CHOREOGRAPHY BY  
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**Elisabetta Polito\*\*** [Costume Designer] - Lyric Stage: *Breath and Imagination*, *Camelot*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning*, *City of Angels*, *Into the Woods*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Time Stands Still*. Gloucester Stage Company: *Out of Sterno*, *Cyrano*, *The Last Schwartz*. Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: *Cymbeline*. Ocean State Theater Company: *Inherit the Wind*. SpeakEasy Stage Company: *Dog Fight*, *Big Fish*, *A Future Perfect*, *Necessary Monsters*,

*The Color Purple*, Kurt Vonnegut: *Make up your Mind*, *In the Heights*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Wheelock Family Theatre: *Mary Poppins*. Greater Boston Stage Company: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Addams Family: The Musical*, *Unbleached American*, *Bernarda Alba*, *These Shining Lives*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*. Boston Conservatory: *Pajama Game*. Boston Arts Academy: *Blood at the Root*, *The Wiz*, *Othello*, *Inner City Blues*, *In the Heights*. Providence College: *Marie Antoinette: Color of Flesh*. The Company Theatre: *White Christmas*. Boston Midsummer Opera: *L'Elisire d'amore*, *L'Amico Fritz*, *Il Campanello*, *Martha*, *The Bartered Bride*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Emerson College: *The Love of the Nightingale*. Concord Academy: *Into the Woods*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hairspray*, *Metamorphoses*, *Imaginary Invalid*. Suffolk University: *Rent*, *Dr. Faustus*. Brandeis Theatre Company: *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, *Three Sisters*. Film: *YE (Jagun Fly Productions)*. 2016 recipient of an Elliot Norton Award. Fashion Technology Program Director at Boston Arts Academy.

**Christopher Brusberg** [Lighting Designer] - Lyric Stage: *Buyer & Cellar*, *Red Hot Patriot*. Annapolis Opera: *La Cenerentola*, *La Boheme*, *Tosca*. Cherry Art Space (Ithaca): *And What Happens If I Don't*, *Hotel Good Luck*, *The Shoe*. BandPortier: *Burnish/Magenta #08* [NYC], *Burnish/Magenta #08-3* [DC]. New Repertory Theatre: *Heartland*, *Muckrakers*, *Scenes from an Adultery*. Company One: *An Octoroon*, *We Are Proud to Present, Displaced Hindu Gods Trilogy*. Chris has recently assisted at Studio Theater (DC), Capital Repertory Theatre (NY), and Saratoga Opera. Upcoming: Tri-Cities Opera: *La Cenerentola*, Manhattan School of Music: *The Magic Flute*. BandPortier: *Vital Glacier*. Chris also started Out of Work Artists, a digital collective with work coming in Spring 2022. More information at [www.oowa.art](http://www.oowa.art). Chris lives and works out of New York City. | [ctbblighting](mailto:ctbblighting) | [ctbblighting.com](http://ctbblighting.com)

**YOUNG NERDS OF COLOR**  
 arranged by Melinda Lopez  
 directed by Dawn M. Simmons  
 original music by Nona Hendryx  
 February 17 - March 20, 2022

central square theater .org

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**Elizabeth Cahill** [Sound Designer] - Lyric Stage: *The Treasurer*, *The Wolves*, *Road Show*, *Camelot*, and *Warrior Class*. Elizabeth has sound designed for Actors' Shakespeare Project, New Repertory Theatre, Gloucester Stage Company, SpeakEasy Stage, The A.R.T. Institute, The Yard, Central Square Theater, New England Conservatory, Hasty Pudding Theatricals at Harvard University, Fresh Ink Theatre, Bridge Rep, Greater Boston Stage Company, Brown Box Theatre Project, Baldwin Wallace University, Boston Conservatory, Moonbox Productions, and more. A/V Supervisor for operas with New England Conservatory, Boston Early Music Festival, and Boston University. Elizabeth serves as the Sound Area Head and Resident Sound Designer for Emerson Stage at Emerson College. | [Elizabetsound.com](http://Elizabetsound.com)

**Nerys Powell\*** (Production Stage Manager) – Lyric Stage: *The Last Five Years, Be Here Now, Little Shop of Horrors, Murder on the Orient Express, and The Treasurer.* | @nerysp

**Pat-rice Rooney** (Assistant Stage Manager) – Lyric Stage: Debut. Greater Boston Stage Company: *All is Calm.* Moonbox Productions: *The Rocky Horror Show.* Gloucester Stage Company: *Think of Me.* She graduated from Millikin University with a BFA in Stage Management in 2020. She'd like to thank Mum, Duck, Em, and Meg for their unyielding support. Hope you enjoy the show!

**Sara Kenney** (Props Artisan) – Lyric Stage: Debut. Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra: *Aida.* The Family Performing Arts Center: *The Wizard of Oz.* The Empty Space Theater at Babson College: *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow.* Brandeis University: *Orlando* [upcoming], *Love and Information, The Bacchae, Dream a Little Dream.* New York Classical Theatre: *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Film: *My Psychedelic Love Story* (Showtime). | @sak319 | saraandersonkenney.com

**Alexandra Smith** (Assistant Director) – Lyric Stage: *Be Here Now.* Also Known As Theatre: *Extremities and A Good Death.* Hartford Stage Education: *Anonymus.* Emerson College Graduate Studies: *Danny and the Deep*

*Blue Sea.* National Women's Theatre Festival: *Bella Luna.* Huntington Theatre Company: *Sweat.* Wheelock Family Theatre: *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka.* Open Theatre Project: *Persephone, a new myth for a hotter world and Prudence.* Company Member at Open Theatre Project, Core Collaborator at The Big Times Project, and Board Member for the Theatre Community Benevolent Fund. Learning Lead at American Repertory Theater, Teaching Artist for Actors' Shakespeare Project, and recipient of a Creative Youth Development Fellowship from the Mass Cultural Council. | alexsmith784.wixsite.com/alexsmith

**Matt Chapuran** (Executive Director) was Managing Director of the Lyric Stage from 2014 to 2018. He was previously Managing Director of Stoneham Theatre, where he ran the 2010 Boston Marathon with Producing Artistic Director Weylin Symes in support of Stoneham Theatre's educational mission. Matt has also served as Director of Development for Conservatory Lab Charter School and managed institutional giving for The Huntington Theatre. At the Nora Theatre Company, Matt was Managing Director during the inception of a capital campaign that ultimately led to the construction of the Central Square Theater. Matt has performed, taught, and directed improvisation for two decades, including as a



**J.P. LICKS**

*Ice Cream • Yogurt • Coffee*

**Congratulations to the cast and crew of  
The Book of Will!**



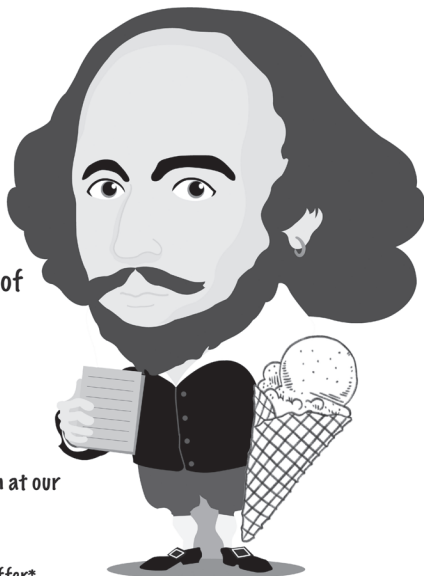
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part of Babson College's MBA program, as one half of the improv team *The Angriest Show in the World*. He currently teaches Arts Management at Emerson College. He lives in Roslindale with his wife and their three daughters.

**\*Actors' Equity Association (AEA)** was founded in 1913. The first of the American actor unions, its mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. It represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the US. Members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession and upholding the highest artistic standards. AEA negotiates wages, working conditions, and provides a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Through its agreement with Equity, this theater has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. | [actorsequity.org](http://actorsequity.org)

**\*\*United Scenic Artists (USA-Local 829)** is a labor union representing designers and artists in the entertainment industry. Membership includes the security of working under a collective bargaining agreement, better working conditions and wages, and access to health insurance, a pension plan, an annuity plan, and a 401(k). Members are artists and craftspeople working in film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, and exhibitions. | [usa829.org](http://usa829.org)

**\*Stage Directors & Choreographers Society (SDC)** is the theatrical union that unites, empowers, and protects professional Stage Directors and Choreographers throughout the United States. Our mission is to foster a national community of professional stage Directors and Choreographers by protecting the rights, health and livelihoods of all our Members; to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities, while educating the current and future generations about the role of Directors and Choreographers; and to provide effective administrative, negotiating and contractual support. | [sdcweb.org](http://sdcweb.org)

#### ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Sound Designer, **Kai Bohlman**

Assistant Costume Designer, **Kayla Campbell**

Head Electrician, **Gabriel Goldman**

Audio Supervision, **Valentin Frank, Owen Meadows, Andrew Wil**

Electricians, **Luke Lewkowicz, Brendan Marr, Jessica Moody, Maddy Wernig**

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**Lyric Stage promotes inclusivity & connection in an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston.**

Kira Troilo  
in *The Last Five Years*  
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**SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUPPORTERS:****RENÉ MORRISSETTE  
& JOE RICHARD**

Meet *The Book of Will* Production Sponsors, René Morrissette & Joe Richard and learn more about what Lyric Stage means to them and what keeps bringing them back to their seats in the theater.

**Why did you want to sponsor *The Book of Will*?**

We are huge Shakespeare fans! In 2020, Joe was part of a group of people who read all of Shakespeare's work in one year. As soon as Courtney announced the Lyric Stage was doing

this show, we wanted to sponsor it since this dovetailed perfectly into the Shakespeare 2020 Reading Project. Who knew that it would end up getting delayed for two years?

**How long have you been subscribers to Lyric Stage?**

We have been subscribers since the 1999–2000 season (since the last century!). Joe was on the board for fifteen years and René later joined the staff.

**What are some of your favorite Lyric Stage shows?**

Our favorite musical was *Into the Woods*. It was the last show Joe's parents saw on Broadway and Lyric Stage did an amazing job on it. A memorable comedy was *Noises Off*. Who couldn't love a show about theater and everything that goes on both on and behind the stage? A favorite drama of ours is *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* It felt like we were in the living room with Martha and George. The intensity riveted us the entire time.

**What are you looking forward to most about *The Book of Will*?**

Seeing a play with a large cast again and experiencing Courtney's brilliant direction.

**What does it mean to you both to be part of the Lyric Stage family?**

Even though we are no longer Massachusetts residents and the theater is now a four-hour drive, it has always felt like home. The intimacy of the space, along with the quality of the productions and the nicest staff in town brings everything together to create something that is greater than the sum of its parts. It truly is a family.

"The intimacy of the Lyric Stage is unmatched. Unobstructed views of the action throughout and so close to the players you feel like you're part of the action. The offerings are varied and always of Broadway quality." – PAUL W., SUBSCRIBER

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## THE LYRIC STAGE

To make a sponsorship pledge or For more information, please contact Sarah Leaf-Herrmann, Director of Development: [Sarah@LyricStage.com](mailto:Sarah@LyricStage.com) or 617.585.5683.

Maurice Emmanuel Parent  
in *Mr. Parent* (2022).

**SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUPPORTERS:****ALICE RICHMOND &  
DAVID ROSENBLOOM**

**Meet Alice Richmond and David Rosenbloom and hear from Alice how their love of Shakespeare inspired them to support *The Book of Will* as Cast Sponsors.**

I had a high school teacher who believed that learning—and knowing—Shakespeare was an essential part of everyone's education. I can remember as a 10th grader being mesmerized by the story—and the language—of *Hamlet*. While my love of Shakespeare began in high school, I still find myself struck by some Shakespearean phrase

or dialogue which seems to have the essence of wisdom in just a few words. I am sure our audience today at *The Book of Will* have their own favorite Shakespeare quotations.

**“We know what we are, but know not what we may be.” – *Hamlet***

I have always been fascinated by how little we actually know about Shakespeare and his life and so any rendering such as *The Book of Will* immediately gets my attention. That the author of this terrific play is a woman only made me more enthusiastic about supporting it.

I am especially pleased that the Lyric Stage has chosen to present *The Book of Will* in this difficult and troubled time. Its message of friendship and legacy resonates today as we all try to preserve our own normalcy and move on to what is next.

For David and me, the Lyric Stage has done more than present great theater in an accessible way. It has given its audiences an opportunity to see the world in a different way, whether geographically, historically or culturally and sometimes all three. This is not only what great theater is meant to do but, in our pluralistic society, it provides us with a mechanism to experience reality through someone else's eyes. That is a gift and a blessing. As was said in *Hamlet*, “We know what we are but know not what we may be.” The Lyric Stage helps us to move beyond the worlds we inhabit into new and different places. It is in gratitude that we feel privileged to sponsor the cast in this wonderful production of *The Book of Will*.

- Alice Richmond

Generous friends like you advance our mission to produce and present live theatre in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of greater Boston. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Advisory Council, the staff, and our company of Boston-based theatre artists at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston, we extend our sincere thanks to those who make our work possible. Thank you for giving to YOUR theatrical home.

**This list has been updated to reflect gifts through February 7, 2022. For questions, concerns, or details please contact Sarah@LyricStage.com.**

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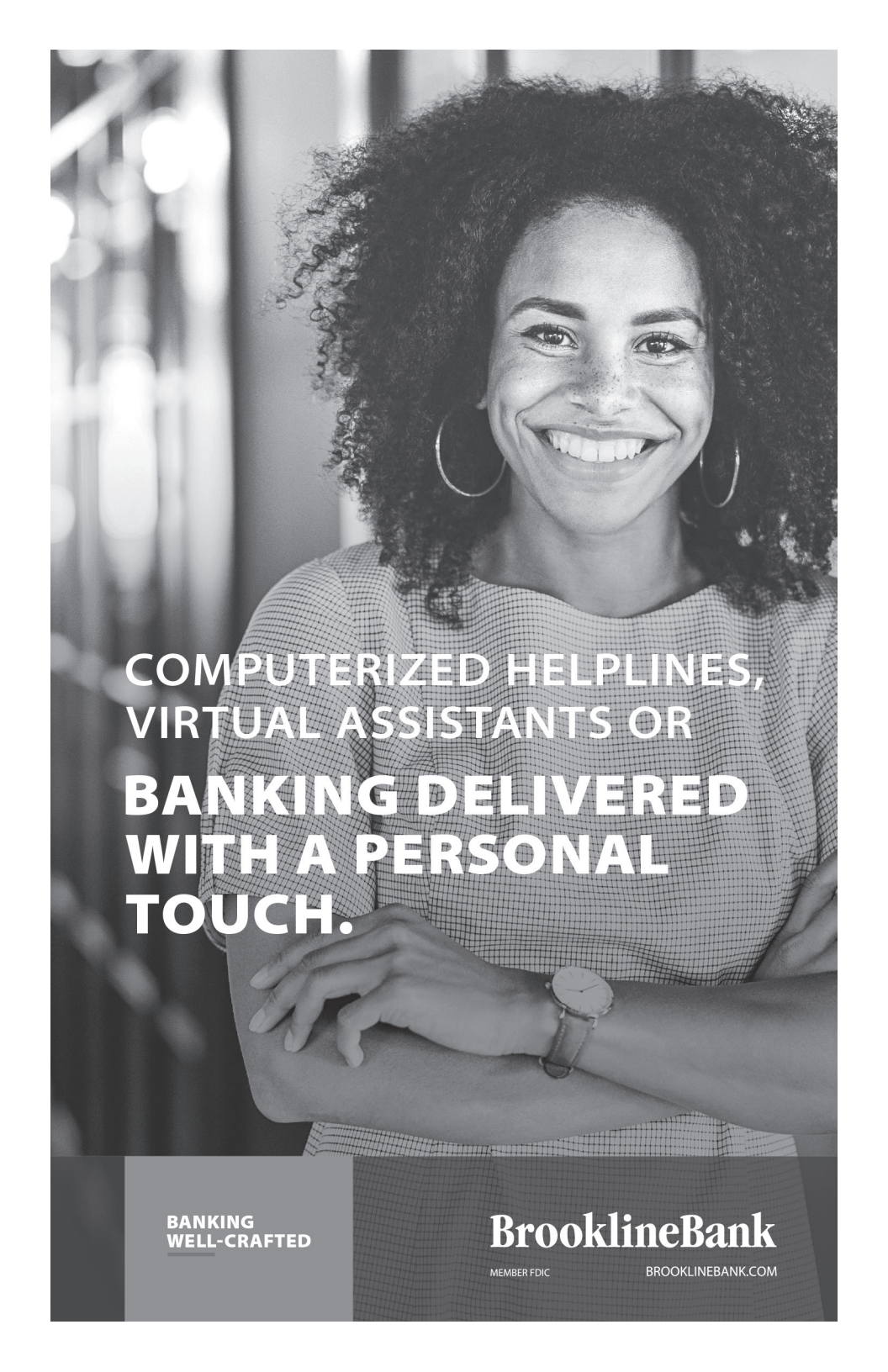
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**Our thanks to the others listed here who have helped us weather the most perilous storm in Lyric Stage history**

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Greater Boston Stage  
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# THE LYRIC STAGE

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston produces and presents live theatre in Greater Boston with an intimate approach that promotes inclusivity and connection. The Lyric Stage leads an effort to integrate live theater and theater education into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston.

Founded in 1974 by **Ron Ritchell** and **Polly Hogan**, the Lyric Stage is Boston's oldest resident theatre company. After establishing a loyal following on Charles Street, Ron and Polly led a successful 1991 campaign to create the Lyric Stage's current home on Clarendon Street. Polly was the chief negotiator for the NEAT (New England Area Theatres) contract, which made it easier for local producers to hire members of Actors Equity Association, the union for actors and stage managers.

In 1998, **Spiro Veloudos** was appointed Producing Artistic Director. During his tenure, he continued Ron and Polly's commitment to local artists; with few exceptions, the theatrical artists that work at the Lyric Stage live in the Greater Boston area. Spiro also established a reputation for staging large musicals in the Lyric Stage's modest playing space, including a signature Sondheim Initiative, which covered 10 musicals over 20 years.

In 2016, the Lyric Stage opened Clarendon Hall, a year-round rehearsal space. Clarendon Hall is available at a subsidized rate to members of the Boston Dance Alliance and other arts organizations and individuals.

Theatre-based education has been a core of the Lyric Stage's mission since its founding days. In 2019, the Lyric Stage merged with City Stage Co. and its expanded education programs include performances at the Children's Museum of Boston, teaching artists working in classrooms in the Boston Public Schools, and the Lyric First Page playwriting festival for students.

Following Spiro's retirement in 2019, the board appointed **Matt Chapuran** as Executive Director, and shortly after, **Courtney O'Connor** was named Artistic Director. Their partnership centers Lyric Stage in Boston's theatrical community, introduces live theatre to new audiences, and promotes new theatrical voices in Boston and nationwide.

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**Courtney O'Connor**, Artistic Director

**Kate Casner**, Digital Marketing Associate

**David D'Agostino**, Production Manager

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**Sarah Leaf-Herrmann**, Director of Development

**Chandra Pieragostini**, Associate Director of Education

**Michele Proude**, KidStage Manager

**Katherine C. Shaver**, Special Projects Manager

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### Stage Managers 2021/22 Season:

**Sarah Bord**, **Rose Mancuso**, **Nerys Powell\***,

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### Design:

The scenery for this production was constructed by

**Wooden Kiwi Productions, LLC.**

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\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

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