







Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by **Fred Anzevino** Co-Choreographed/Associate Directed by **J Alan & Jenna Schoppe** Music Directed by **Carolyn Brady** Assistant Music Directed by **Evelyn Ryan**

Mar 8-Apr 28, 2024



Theo is committed to creating a culture of **belonging** for every person in our community. A culture of belonging is established through the principles of equity,

diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. In order to succeed in a culture of belonging we must recognize and honor those who came before us, as well as provide welcoming and brave spaces for those who are with us today:

- Theo sits on the traditional homelands of the Council of Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa as well as the Menominee, Miami and Ho-Chunk Nations.
- Theo also acknowledges that the field of theatre has traditionally excluded members of the global majority, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and commits to working to dismantle the legacy of colonization and racism in this country.
- We acknowledge that the United States was built at the often-fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We commit to working towards the continued liberation of Black people through our work both on and offstage.
- We believe every person is born with dignity and humanity, including, but not limited to, race, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, country of origin, ability, body size, sexual orientation, and gender.

We thank you for honoring these commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility for all our patrons. All underrepresented voices-past, present, and future-have a home here at Theo.

AUDIENCE AGREEMENT

All are welcome here. As such, Theo has a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and hate-speech. Those violating this policy will be asked to leave. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

To read these acknowledgements in their entirety, please visit **theo-u.com/mission-values**

ABOUT OUR RESTROOMS

Theo commits to providing accessible and all-gender restrooms as an important way to show full access and inclusion. We believe that everyone benefits from accessible (ADA compliant) and all-gender restrooms including, but not limited to, transgender and gender diverse individuals, people with a disability, parents/caregivers whose children are a different gender from them, and people with caregivers who are a different gender from them.



THOUGHTS FROM THE CREATIVE TEAM

"Ultimately this is the story of Sondheim. We wanted the opportunity to honor his work through our work and this production is Theo coming back to itself. We started as a cabaret company, and we are thrilled for this unique opportunity to utilize Sondheim's music and create something that is for our audience's that truly won't be seen anywhere else." —FRED ANZEVINO

"Sondheim is an ICON to me for several reasons. I enjoy the complexity and depth of his material as both a musician and an actor. My most favorite theatrical experience in college was playing the Beggar Woman and later my Chicago debut would be in the same role. Studying the depths Sondheim's compositions as both a singer and today a music director really flexes the creative muscles and feels incredibly cathartic to bring to life! While these pieces are true gems within their larger work, we get to play with them a bit. Perhaps a different voice type telling the story, a mash-up based on a like theme, or a song juxtaposed against the other

showing a tongue-in-cheek contrast if you will. We are simultaneously celebrating Sondheim's art and crafting it into our own unique presentation." — CAROLYN BRADY

"Sondheim has always held a very special place in my heart. Into the Woods is the reason I went to school to study Musical Theatre. I have fond memories of mining the lyrics with friends, collecting all the cast recordings and DVD's possible from the Library (Pre-Spotify/ streaming), and hunting down Evening Primrose on eBay to find out the context of those four beautiful songs at the end of The Frogs Album!

So often as actors, 'type' plays a huge part in determining which roles you can play, what songs you sing, and ultimately what stories you tell. This Revue has given us an opportunity to interpret incredible material in extraordinary new ways. Some familiar songs, quite a few deep cuts, but with an eye toward the future - asking what new meaning and life can come from these monumental works." — J. ALAN Sondheim studied elements of modernist classical composition, which makes his music extremely unique in the theater world. I think this musical flexibility is what enabled him to explore complicated and confusing emotions with uncanny depth- his lyrics and melodies implant themselves in your brain and refuse to leave. —EVELYN RYAN

"This revue is so special because it represents the team that created it. We combed through Sondheim's entire canon (admittedly, a fun task), and picked the songs that not only represented his genius, but spoke to us. I'm also proud of how much we've been able to tailor this show to our performers. "New key? You got it. Special skill you'd like to feature? Sure thing, we're inspired to create something just for you."

In losing Sondheim, we lost a titan of our industry. To create this show in his honor, has been a great privilege." —JENNA SCHOPPE

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MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM

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PRODUCTION STAFF

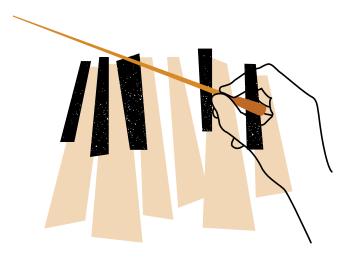
CO-CHOREOGRAPHER/ J Alan (J/she) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **CO-CHOREOGRAPHER/** Jenna Schoppe (*she/her*) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR** Evelyn Ryan (she/her) **CO-LIGHTING DESIGNER** Josiah Croegaert (*he/him*) **COSTUME DESIGNER** Bob S. Kuhn (he/him) **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** Carl Herzog (he/him) **PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN** Jackson Mikkelsen (he/him)

DIRECTOR Fred Anzevino (he/him)

MUSIC DIRECTOR Carolyn Brady (she/they) **SET DESIGNER** Manuel Ortiz (he/him) **CO-LIGHTING DESIGNER** Maggie Fullilove-Nugent (she/her) **SOUND DESIGNER** Matthew R. Chase (he/him) **STAGE MANAGER** Shelby Burgus (she/her) AUDIO ENGINEER Isaac Mandel (he/him) **SCENIC CHARGE** Rose Johnson (*they/them*) **SCENIC PAINTER** Jose Martinez (he/they) **CASTING DIRECTOR** Christopher Pazdernik (any)

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production is strictly prohibited.

All cast and staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. At Theo, masks are strongly encouraged.



CAST

Elya Bottiger (she/her) Max DeTogne (he/him) Ismael Garcia (they/he) Joe Giovannetti (he/him) Maliha Sayed (she/her)

SWINGS

J Alan (J/she) Melody Murray (she/her)

BAND

PIANIST Carolyn Brady (she/her) ALT. PIANIST Evelyn Ryan (she/her)

PRODUCTION SPONSORS



MICHAEL & MONA HEATH

SONG LIST

The performance will include the songs listed below and will be performed in two acts, with a 15-minute intermission.

SATURDAY NIGHT (1954)

Class That Kind of a Neighborhood

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (1962)

Love, I Hear

ANYONE CAN WHISTLE (1964)

Anyone Can Whistle Me and My Town There Won't Be Trumpets

COMPANY (1970)

Being Alive Company You Could Drive A Person Crazy

FOLLIES (1971)

Broadway Baby Could I Leave You? The Story of Lucy & Jessie

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (1973)

The Glamorous Life In Praise of Women

THE FROGS (1974/2004)

Hades Hymn to Dionysos

PACIFIC OVERTURES (1976)

Pretty Lady

THEO theo-u.com

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SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON **BARBER OF FLEET STREET** (1979)

Green Finch and Linnet Bird Kiss Me Pretty Women

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG (1981)

Not a Day Goes By **Opening Doors** Our Time

SUNDAY IN THE PARK **WITH GEORGE** (1984)

Finishing the Hat Sunday in the Park with George

INTO THE WOODS (1987)

Agony No One is Alone

ASSASSINS (1990)

Unworthv of Your Love

PASSION (1994)

Happiness I Wish I Could Forget You No One Has Ever Loved Me

ROAD SHOW (2008)

The Best Thing That Ever Has Happened Waste

BIOGRAPHIES



ELYA FAYE BOTTIGER (she/her: Performer)

Favorite Sondheim: Company THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: Gypsy, Little Me, Applause, Babes in Arms (Porchlight);

The Little Mermaid (Chicago Shakespeare); At Mister Kelly's (Three Cat Productions); Marvelous Wonderettes (Open Door Rep.). REGIONAL: Joseph and the Amazing..., Wizard of Oz, Lend Me a Tenor, Moon Over Buffalo, The Game's Afoot, Run For Your Wife (Palace Theater); Little Shop of Horrors, A Funny Thing Happened..., Titanic, Scapino! (Timber Lake Playhouse). Columbia College Chicago, BFA: Musical Theater. Represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.

MAXWELL J DETOGNE (he/him; Performer)

Favorite Sondheim: Company

THEO: Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar (Jeff nom.) & Matthew in Altar Boyz.

CHICAGO: Clyde in Bonnie and Clyde (Kokandy; Jeff nom.) & Rob in High Fidelity (Jeff nom.). REGIONAL: Jon in Tick, Tick... Boom! & Dan in Next to Normal (Dunes Summer Theatre). Graduated from North Central College. Very excited to be back in Chicago creating a show with some familiar faces and some new friends!



ISMAEL GARCIA (they/he; Performer)

Favorite Sondheim: Sweeney Todd or Sunday in the Park with Georae

THEO: The Threepenny Opera (Ensemble), Things We Don't Say (Performer), Baked! (ASM), Assassins (ASM). KOKANDY: Sweeney Todd (Beggar), Spongebob (Patrick). PORCHLIGHT: New Faces Sing 1984 (Performer/Cellist). Outside the theater doors, they can be found cooking, making music, thrifting, or haunting the aisle of a local bookstore. Con tanto amor <3



JOE GIOVANNETTI (he/him; Performer) Favorite Sondheim: Into the Woods THEO: The Full Monty, The Most Happy Fella (Jeff

nom., Supporting Actor). CHICAGO: Sunset

Boulevard, A Chorus Line (Porchlight Music Theatre); All That He Was (PrideArts). MS Leadership for Creative Enterprises, Northwestern University; BME Music Education, Indiana University. For Molly. joe-giovannetti.com | @joegio



MALIHA SAYED (she/her; Performer) Favorite Sondheim: Sweeney Todd (Into the Woods close second)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: Arabia, Arabia! (The Plagiarists), The Polar Express Train Ride (Rail Events Productions), Candlewood Lake: New Musical (Workshop, Pemberley Productions). TV/FILM: "Covert". Ithaca College, BFA in Musical Theatre. Alongside performing, she enjoys writing stories for the screen, stage, and page. Represented by Gray Talent.

Co-Choreographer & Associate Director; Swing) Favorite Sondheim: Merrily We Roll Along THEO: 8-Track, Once Upon a

Mattress, Best Little Whorehouse in Texas & Things We Don't Say. She is grateful for her friends, and partners at Starbucks for their continued support!

MELODY MURRAY



(she/her; Swing) Favorite Sondheim: Into the Woods THEO: Debut. CHICAGO:

Debut. Graduate of University of West Florida with a specialization in musical theater.

Beyond performing, she enjoys yoga and cooking. Represented by Gray Talent Group.

FRED ANZEVINO (he/him; Director & Artistic Director) Favorite Sondheim:

Passion (directed at Theo in 2014)

Fred has had the distinct honor of serving as Artistic Director of Theo since the company's inception in 1997. A graduate of Rhode Island College, he studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC) and the George Washington University's MFA acting program. A five-time Jeff Award winning director (Non-Equity), he continues to remain in awe and wonder of the extraordinary talent and commitment that is the lifeline of Chicago's storefront theater. A very special thank you to our

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artists, patrons, donors, board of directors, and staff—especially our producing director Christopher Pazdernik—and the City of Evanston, without whom this would not be possible. "Always moving forward with compassion, forgiveness and concern, through the eyes of everyone."

CAROLYN BRADY (she/they; Music

Director & Pianist) Favorite Sondheim: Sweeney Todd & A Little Night Music

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: Cinderella, Shrek, Christmas Carol, A Chorus Line (Jeff nom.) (Drury Lane); Elephant & Piggie (Marriott); How to Lobster (Steppenwolf): Matilda (Paramount School of the Arts); Meet Me In St Louis. The Who's Tommy (both Jeff noms.), Dear World, Kiss Me Kate, The Wedding Singer (Circle Theatre). Carolyn operates a multi-genre national voice studio of clients who've appeared in the Broadway casts of Book of Mormon & Almost Famous; national tours of The Prom. School of Rock. & Mean Girls; NBC's The Voice & Walt Disney World. She has served on music and theatre faculties at Roosevelt, Lovola, & Saint Xavier Universities. She's excited to return to the smaller, intimate theater where she began her performing roots in Chicago. Her most treasured role is being Mom to Cameron & Jack.

JENNA SCHOPPE (she/her; Co-Choreographer & Associate Director) Favorite Sondheim: Follies

THEO: Godspell, Once Upon a Mattress, (both Jeff noms.), The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas & The Threepenny Opera. CHICAGO: The SpongeBob Musical (Kokandy, Jeff nom.); Yank! (Pride Films & Plays, Jeff Award for Best Choreography); Nunsense, Call Me Madam, Do Re Mi, The Rink (Porchlight Revisits); Kinky Boots, Mamma Mia! (Highland Park Players); Bobbie Clearly (Steep). Up next: Choreographing 9 to 5 at Metropolis.

EVELYN RYAN (she/her; Asst. Music

Director & alt. Pianist) Favorite Sondheim: A Little Night Music & Passion

THEO: Assassins. CHICAGO: The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Blank), Nunsense (Up & Coming). Evelyn graduated from DePaul University twice, earning degrees in Music Composition and Sustainable Urban Development. In her free time, she takes pictures and thinks about birds.

MATTHEW R. CHASE (he/him; Director of Production & Sound Designer) Favorite Sondheim: "To be determined..."

THEO: Assassins, Baked! (Sound Design), Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Assoc. Sound Design). CHICAGO (SOUND DESIGN): Anything Goes, Ernest Shackleton Loves Me, Cabaret, The Apple Tree, Rent, Clear, Spring Awakening, Passing Strange & Nunsense (Porchlight); Shrek, The Producers & Pippin (Music Theatre Works); Who's Holiday (Theater Wit); Elephant And Piggie's We Are in a Play (Marriott). CHICAGO (PROD. MGR.): Spring Awakening and Broadway in your Backyard (Porchlight); Mary's Seacole and Heisenberg (Griffin). Matthew is Director of Production here at Theo Ubique. where his credits include Assassins, Baked, The Threepenny Opera & Passing Strange, and the resident Production Manager at Theater Wit, where his credits include Inanimate, Who's Holiday!, Household Spirits, The Whistleblower, Hurricane Diane & Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play.

JOSIAH CROEGAERT (he/him; Co-Lighting Designer) Favorite Sondheim: Follies

THEO: Baked!, Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, The Threepenny Opera (Associate), Godspell (Assistant) CHICAGO: Mothers (The Gift), Last Hermanos (Red Orchid) ASSOCIATE: What the Constitution Means to Me (Timeline), RENT(Porchlight) ASSISTANT: The Lifespan of a Fact (Timeline), Household Spirits (Theater Wit), Fen (Court), Wife of a Salesman (Writers). Graduate of Columbia College Chicago. Josiahcrodesign.com

MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT (she/her; Co-Lighting Designer) Favorite Sondheim: Sweeney Todd

THEO: Cabaret, Godspell, & The Threepenny Opera. CHICAGO: The Magic Play (Goodman); Too Heavy for Your Pocket and What the Constitution Means to Me (TimeLine); Sunset Boulevard & Rent (Porchlight); Endgame, Six Characters in Search of An Author & The Threepenny Opera (Hypocrites); Burning Bluebeard (Ruffians); Roustabout, Fake Lake, Wildcats & 44 Plays for 44 Presidents (Neo-Futurists). Maggie is currently Director of Production at TimeLine Theatre and a leader of the Chicago Green Theatre Alliance. She is dedicated to moving the Chicago Theatre Community towards safer, more sustainable and equitable practices, while lighting them beautifully. She would like to thank her supportive friends and family, and especially Josiah, the best lighting partner in town.

BOB KUHN (he/him, Costume Designer) Favorite Sondheim: Act 1 of Sunday in the Park with George

THEO: Working, Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Jeff nom). CHICAGO: Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (Jeff Award, Best Costume Design), Hair (Jeff nom.) & Rock of Ages (Mercury Theater); A Chorus Line (Porchlight); Bonnie and Clyde, Heathers (Kokandy); White Christmas (Drury Lane); I Am My Own Wife, Time is on Our Side (About Face). Bob is currently adjunct faculty at Loyola University, serving as costume shop floor manager and staff draper.

MANUEL ORTIZ (he/him, Scenic Designer)

Favorite Sondheim: West Side Story

THEO: The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. CHICAGO: Household Spirits (Theater Wit), Kelly Girls and Wise Guys (Factory Theater). Manuel thanks his amazing family and friends for all their love and support. Special shout out to my amazing husband, Corey Mills, for being my strongest rock and cheerleader!

SHELBY BURGUS (she/her;

Stage Manager) Favorite Sondheim: Sunday in the Park with George

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: The Kelly Girls and Last Night in Karaoke Town (Factory Theater), Happy Birthday Mars Rover (Passage Theatre), Human Resource(s) (Theatre Evolve), Southern Comfort (Pride Arts), Scraps (NAFT) and The Spitfire Grill (Refuge Theatre Project).

CARL HERZOG (he/him; Technical Director) Favorite Sondheim: West Side Story

THEO: My Way, The Bridges of Madison County (Jeff nom), The Threepenny Opera (Jeff nom) & The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (TD). CHICAGO/TD: Eurydice (Writers) and Wise Guys (Factory). Carl teaches Scenic Carpentry at Loyola Jesuit High School, is the Master Carpenter at Writers Theatre, and builds for many storefront theatres around Chicagoland. He is so thankful for Theo and considers this company an artistic home. "Each time I find myself flat on my face I pick myself up and get back in the race." NEXT UP: Gyp DeCarlo in *Jersey Boys* (Mercury).

ROSE JOHNSON (they/them; Scenic

Charge) Favorite Sondheim: Sweeney Todd

CHICAGO/SCENIC DESIGN: Agnes of God (Jeff nom.), The Great Kahn and Wolves (Redtwist); Lane Call (Factory); Murder, ReWrote (Hell in a Handbag), and The Once and Future Festival. As a charge artist, they've worked with Raven, Rivendell, Shattered Globe, Congo Square, and Theo Ubique. BA: Theatrical Design and Technology, Columbia College Chicago. UP NEXT: S. Paradox (Babes with Blades).

JACKSON MIKKELSEN

(he/him; Production Electrician) Favorite Sondheim: Into the Woods

THEO: The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (Swing), Baked & Assassins (Prod. Electrician). CHICAGO: The Snow Queen (Marriott), Ragtime (Metropolis), The Wild Party (Blank), The Tempest (Oak Park Festival Theatre). In addition to performing, Jackson has worked as an electrician with Hell in a Handbag, Black Button Eyes, City Lit, Redtwist, and Prop Theatre. BFA in Musical Theatre from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he now works as the department's lead electrician. jacksonmikkelsen.com

CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK

(any, Producing Director) Favorite Sondheim: Anyone Can Whistle

THEO: Godspell (Director), Man of La Mancha (Stage Manager) & Time After Time (Creative Consultant). CHICAGO & REGIONAL/DIRECTING: Avenue Q and Spelling Bee (Music Theatre Works), Who's Holiday (Theatre Wit); Colors of My Life (CCPA/Roosevelt University); Big River (Round Barn); Carrie (Ohio Northern University): High Fidelity (Jeff Awards, Best Director & Best Production), The Spitfire Grill. The Last Session & Hands on a Hardbody (Refuge Theatre Project): The Story of A Story (Underscore); eight productions for Porchlight Revisits, and three years of the Non-Equity Jeff Awards. CHICAGO/CASTING: Hedwig & the Angry Inch (Haven), Gods & Monsters (Frame of Reference), Miracle (World Premiere), Porchlight Music Theatre & CPA Theatricals. An openly HIV+ artist, Christopher thanks you for supporting live theater. IG: @see.paz

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BROADWAY OPEN MIC

MAR 13 & APR 10 8-11PM

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2022 Sarah Siddons Award winner, Sandy Duncan with the 2022 scholarship recipients.

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In addition to attending our shows, additional financial support helps us maintain our high standards of producing quality productions and the costs of managing the phenomenal growth we've experienced in recent years.

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ABOUT THEO

Theo was founded by Artistic Director Fred Anzevino in 1997 as a non-equity itinerant storefront theatre, influenced by his father's involvement in the nightclub business and his heritage as an Italian American. In 2004, Theo was incorporated as Theo Cabaret Theatre at the No Exit Cafe, focusing on musicals and revues, and reigniting the cabaret theatre trend in Chicago and launching a 14-year track record of critically-acclaimed and awardwinning music theatre productions. Overall, Theo has produced nearly 100 shows and received over 60 Jeff Awards.

In 2018, Theo was selected by the city of Evanston to be the resident company at a new performance space on Howard Street, which is where you are tonight! We are grateful to our long-term supporters that make it all possible, unendingly appreciative of our talented artists, and we look forward to growing our family of supporters into the future. Thank you for joining us!

For more information, visit theo-u.com

THEO STAFF

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Matthew R. Chase (Director of Production)

AUDIENCE SERVICES John Weagly (Box Office Manager) Lila Marooney, Julian Weslander (House Managers)

MARKETING, GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PUBLIC RELATIONS Arts ink, Inc. Inquires can be directed to Whitney Rhodes, whitney@artsink.org

ACCOUNTING Solomon Hursey, **Michael Belanger** (Brilliant Squirrel Bookkeeping)

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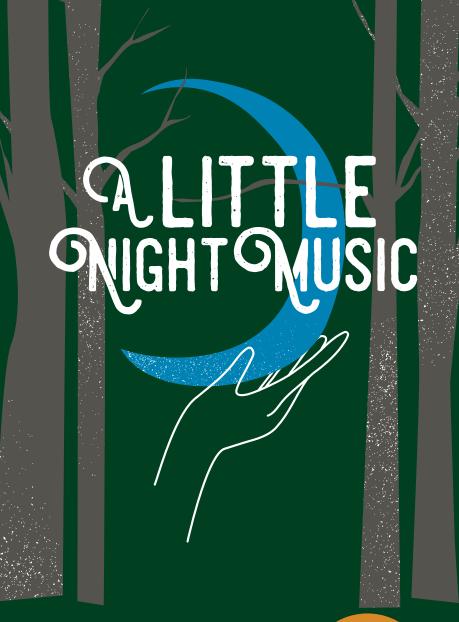






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May 24-Jul 14, 2024

2**324**

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