

theo™

2324
season

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Book by **Hugh Wheeler**

Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**

Suggested by a Film by **Ingmar Bergman**

Originally Produced & Directed
on Broadway by **Harold Prince**

Directed by **L. Walter Stearns**

Music Directed by **Eugene Dizon**

Choreography & Musical Staging by **Brenda Didier**

May 24 - Jul 14, 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.



everyone is welcome.

A WELCOME FROM DIRECTOR, L. WALTER STEARNS

I go to the theater to learn about being human, and *A Little Night Music* offers many life lessons. The characters in this play have all made mistakes and harbor some regrets, often finding themselves in the wrong relationships. Much like Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, they need a clearing, a weekend in the country, to make life decisions.



I've taken this journey before: about 25 years ago, I directed *A Little Night Music*. Back then, I was a different person. Today, I'm contemplating what's next in my life, reflecting on all the chapters that led me to this point. I think of Sondheim's 'The Road You Didn't Take' and wonder about the paths I could have chosen.

The greatest tragedy in life is to live with regret. *A Little Night Music* encourages change. If you've made a mistake or taken the wrong path, your life is a work of art—it's yours to create. Every morning, when you wake up, you have an opportunity to live free of regret. That's what I wish for you.

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A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY HUGH WHEELER

ORCHESTRATIONS BY JONATHAN TUNICK

SUGGESTED BY A FILM BY INGMAR BERGMAN

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED AND DIRECTED ON BROADWAY BY HAROLD PRINCE

A Little Night Music is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| DIRECTOR | L. Walter Stearns (he/him) |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR | Eugene Dizon (he/him) |
| CHOREOGRAPHY & MUSICAL STAGING | Brenda Didier (she/her) |
| SCENIC DESIGNER | Angela Weber Miller (she/her) |
| LIGHTING DESIGNER | Patrick Chan (he/him) |
| COSTUME DESIGNER | Cindy Moon (she/her) |
| PROPERTIES DESIGNER | Isa Noe (they/them) |
| SOUND DESIGNER | Rick Sims (he/him) |
| INTIMACY & VIOLENCE DIRECTOR | Charlie Baker (he/they) |
| DIALECT DESIGNER | August Rain Stamper (she/her) |
| STAGE MANAGER | Shay Gordon (they/them) |
| ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | Yasmeen Abiad (she/her) |
| ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER | Ethan M. Colish (he/they) |
| ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR | Aaron Kahn (he/him) |
| ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER | Nicholas Reinhart (he/him) |
| DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION | Matthew R. Chase (he/him) |
| AUDIO ENGINEER | Isaac Mandel (he/him) |
| TECHNICAL DIRECTOR | David Moreland (he/him) |
| SCENIC CHARGE | Rose Johnson (they/them) |
| PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN | Jackson Mikkelsen (he/him) |
| ADDITIONAL ORCHESTRATIONS | Linda Madonia (she/her) |
| COSTUME TECHNICIAN | Melissa Tress Wilson (they/them) |
| CASTING DIRECTOR | Christopher Pazdernik (any) |

CAST

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| DESIREE ARMFELDT | Colette Todd (she/her) |
| MME. ARMFELDT | Honey West (she/her) |
| FREDRIK EGERMAN | Patrick Byrnes (he/him) |
| HENRIK EGERMAN | J Alan (she/her) |
| PETRA/us CHARLOTTE | Madison Kauffman (she/her) |
| ANNE EGERMAN | Chamaya Moody (she/her) |
| FREDRIKA/us ANNE | Tessa Newman (she/her) |
| CHARLOTTE MALCOLM | Maya Rowe (she/her) |
| CARL-MAGNUS MALCOLM | Kevin Webb (he/him) |
| ENSEMBLE/us PETRA & FREDRIKA | Mizha Lee Overn (she/her) |
| ENSEMBLE/us FREDRIK | Michael Penick (he/him) |
| ENSEMBLE/us HENRIK | Peter Ruger (he/him) |
| us CARL-MAGNUS/us ENSEMBLE | Brian Healy (he/him) |
| standby MME. ARMFELDT | Jenny Rudnick (she/her) |
| us DESIREE/us ENSEMBLE | Erica Silver (she/her) |

BAND

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| KEYBOARD/CONDUCTOR | Eugene Dizon (he/him) |
| VIOLIN | Raquel Navarro (she/her) |
| REEDS | Sophie Creutz (she/her) |
| CELLO | Rachel Schuldt (she/her) |

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRODUCTION SPONSORS

MARY ALICE & PETER J. COSTELLO

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.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| NIGHT WALTZ | Company |
| NOW | Fredrik |
| LATER | Henrik |
| SOON | Anne, Henrik, Fredrik |
| THE GLAMOROUS LIFE | Fredrika, Desiree, Madame Armfeldt, Ensemble |
| REMEMBER? | Ensemble |
| YOU MUST MEET MY WIFE | Desiree, Fredrik |
| LIAISONS | Madame Armfeldt |
| IN PRAISE OF WOMEN | Carl-Magnus |
| EVERY DAY A LITTLE DEATH | Charlotte, Anne |
| A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY | Company |

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| THE SUN WON'T SET / THE SUN SITS LOW | Ensemble |
| IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL | Fredrik, Carl-Magnus |
| PERPETUAL ANTICIPATION | Ensemble |
| SEND IN THE CLOWNS | Desiree |
| THE MILLER'S SON | Petra |
| FINALE | Company |

BIOGRAPHIES



COLETTE TODD (she/her; Desiree Armfeldt)

THEO: *Passion* (Jeff Award), *Aspects of Love*, *Honky Tonk Angels* (Jeff Award). CHICAGO: *Next to Normal* (BoHo Theater), *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Oliver!* (Light Opera Works), *Parade* (Writers Theater), *Shrek* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Mamma Mia*, *Seussical* (Marriott Theater). REGIONAL: *Big Fish*, *Spamalot*, *Dames at Sea* (Theater at the Center), *The Addams Family* (Williams Street Repertory). When offstage, she offers private voice instruction at Star Music Studio or can be found hiking off on an adventure.



HONEY WEST (she/her; Madame Armfeldt)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Clue* and "Bernadette" in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Mercury)—the role she previously received a Supporting Actress Jeff nomination and Best Actress Broadway World Award—"Jacqueline" & understudy "Albin" in *La Cage Aux Folles* (Music Theater Works), *Holiday Inn* (Drury Lane), "Mrs. Cratchitt" & "Electra" in *Gypsy* (Porchlight), as well as *Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid*, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Diva Diaries*, *Jerry's Girls*, *Tony and Tony's Wedding*, *As You Like It* and *Pussy on the House* (Best Actress Award, Broadway World). TV: "Proven Innocent" (FOX). 2012 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.



PATRICK BYRNES (he/him; Fredrik Egerman)

THEO: A Marvin Hamlisch Songbook. CHICAGO: *Clue* (Mercury Theater Chicago), *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (u/s) (Steppenwolf Theatre), *The Sound of Music* (Beverly Arts Center), *Casa Valentina* (Pride Films & Plays), *Marie Christine* (Boho Theatre), *Far From Heaven* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Titanic* (Griffin Theatre), *Assassins* (Kokandy Productions), and *Sunday in the Park With George* (u/s) (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). TV/FILM: "Chicago Med", "4400", "Power Book IV: Force". Represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent. patrickbyrnes.us.



J ALAN (she/her; Henrik)

THEO: *8-Track: Sounds of the 70's*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Things We Don't Say*, *Sondheim Tribute Revue*.

She is grateful for her friends and partners at Starbucks for their never ending support and patience!



MADISON KAUFFMAN (she/her, Petra & u/s Charlotte)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Comedy of Errors*, *Sinister*, & *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chicago Shakespeare); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lyric Opera); *Brigadoon* (Music Theater Works); *The Secret of My Success & The Little Mermaid* (Paramount); *Heathers* (Kokandy), *A Christmas Carol* (Drury Lane). NYC & REGIONAL: *A Taste of Things to Come* (Broadway in Chicago); *Mamma Mia!*, *Rumors*, & *Rabbit Hole* (Ozark Actors Theatre), *Numbers Nerds* (NYMF), *Grease* (Casa Manana). BFA Musical Theatre (Millikin University); represented by Gray Talent. Madison would like to thank the team for this wonderful opportunity, as well as Ben and her family for their endless love and support.



CHAMAYA MOODY (she/her; Anne Egerman)

THEO: *The Threepenny Opera* (Jeff nom.), *Godspell*, *Passing Strange*, *8-Track: The Sounds of the 70's* (Jeff Award, Best Ensemble). CHICAGO: *Sweeney Todd* (Kokandy), *Safronia* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), *In My Granny's Garden* (Goodman). Graduate of Northwestern University from the Musical Theatre Certificate Program. Outside of performing, she likes to make social media content about neurodiversity and accessible business practices. Represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.



TESSA NEWMAN (she/her; Fredrika & u/s Anne)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO/REGIONAL: "Elle Woods" in *Legally Blonde* (Theatre on the Hill) and "Janet Vandegraf" (*The Drowsy Chaperone*, Westmont Performing Arts). Opera highlights include Lucia in *Lucia di Lamermoor* (Mediterranean Opera Festival) and *Königin der Nacht* (*Die Zauberflöte*, FAVA Opera). Tessa Newman is a singing actor and AGMA soprano based in Chicago, Illinois. She received her Bachelors of music in voice performance from the University of North Texas and is pursuing her Masters of Music at DePaul University. In addition to her professional singing career, Tessa can be spotted playing princesses, super heroes, and other famous characters across Chicago.



MAYA ROWE (*she/her; Charlotte Malcolim*) THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Beautiful* (Marriott), *Beauty and the Beast* (Chicago Shakespeare), *MotherFreakingHood*

(Mercury Theater), *Shrek and You're a Good Man...* (Drury Lane), *The Sound of Music* (Paramount). REGIONAL: *Cabaret* (The Studio Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Disaster!*, *Beehive* (Rocky Mountain Rep), *The Light in the Piazza* (AGPA Festival). TV/FILM: "Tankhouse" (AppleTV). Graduate of CCPA at Roosevelt. Outside of theatre, Maya spends her free time wielding a hot glue gun for all types of arts and crafts and snuggling with her fresh new husband, Gabriel. Represented by Gray Talent.



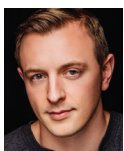
KEVIN WEBB (*he/him; Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm*) THEO: *Sweeney Todd*. CHICAGO: *Sweeney Todd* (Jeff Award-Principal, Kokandy); *The Killer* (Jeff nomination-Supporting),

Mother Courage and her Children, *The Pragmatists*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Trap Door); *The Secret Garden* (Court); *Sweeney Todd* (Porchlight); *Mary Rose* (Jeff nomination-Supporting), *Shockheaded Peter*, *Coraline* (Black Button Eyes); *WOZ* (Victory Gardens); *Marie Christine* (BoHo); *The View UpStairs* (Circle); *The Pitchfork Disney* (Interrobang); *Songs from an Unmade Bed* (Jeff nomination-Principal, Pride Films & Plays); *Assassins* (The Viaduct).



MIZHA LEE OVERN (*she/her; Ensemble; u/s Petra & Fredrika*)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: Debut. REGIONAL: *A Christmas Carol* (Milwaukee Rep), *Dial 'M' for Murder* (Milwaukee Rep), *Little Women* (Milwaukee Rep). From Minnesota, is a 2023 graduate of Bethany Lutheran College earning her degree in Theatre and Media Arts. After finding success at The Open Jar Institute in NYC and the Emerging Professional Residency Program at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, she's thrilled to jump start her career by moving to Chicago. She'd like to express her gratitude to all her loved ones; she wouldn't be here without them.



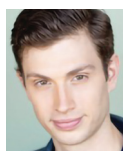
MICHAEL PENICK (*he/him; Ensemble & u/s Fredrik*) THEO: *Assassins*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. CHICAGO/REGIONAL: *4000 Days* (PrideArts); *Hot*

Mikado (Skylight Music Theatre); *Little Mermaid* (Northern Stage); *Curly, Oklahoma!* (Revival Theatre Company); *Charlie Price, Kinky Boots* (Circa '21); and *Candide, Candide* (Third Avenue Playhouse). Michael studied music performance at Luther College (BA) and The University of Iowa (MA). michaelpenick.com



PETER RUGER (*he/him; Ensemble & u/s Henrik*)

THEO: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Baked!* CHICAGO: *Queer Eye the Musical* (Second City), *Anything Goes* (Metropolis), *Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog* (Black Button Eyes), *1776* (Porchlight Revisits). A graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts, Peter is thrilled to be performing in his first Sondheim show! "Love to my endlessly supportive family and friends!"



BRIAN HEALY (*he/him; u/s Carl-Magnus & Ensemble*)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Red Summer* (MPAACT), *Sunset Boulevard* (Porchlight), *Best for Winter* (Idle Muse), *Die Fledermaus* and *Candide* (Music Theater Works), *Women in Jeopardy* (First Folio), *Hamlet* and *A Dickens Carol* (Oak Park). TV: "Chicago Fire," "World's Greatest Prison Escapes." Graduate of the Acting program at DePaul University. He enjoys playing guitar, piano and violin and spending time with his fiancé Catie and cat Puck.



JENNY RUDNICK (*she/her; standby Madame Armfeldt*) THEO: *Grey Gardens*. CHICAGO: *Addams Family* (Metropolis), *Pippin* (Music Theater Works), *Sister Act* (Mercury Theater), *Bright Star* (Boho Theater), *1776* (Porchlight Revisits), *Little Women* (Brown Paper Box), *Full Monty* (Theater Nebula), *Follies* (Devonshire Playhouse), *Music Man* (Glenview Theater Guild), *Billy Elliot* (Highland Park Players), *Into the Woods* (Deerfield Theater). She is a CPA by day and enjoys traveling the world whenever possible. She dedicates her performance to her late mother and grandmother, both of whom wiled away the day playing solitaire in their later years.



ERICA SILVER (*she/her; u/s Desiree & Malla*)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Get Out Alive* (Haven) *The Christmas Schooner* (Beverly Arts Center), *The Prom* (Dominican University),

Ritual (Reggie's). TV/FILM: *Christmas Caroler Challenge Season 1* (Finalist). Graduate of Chapman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a vocal emphasis.

SOPHIE CREUTZ (*she/her, Reeds*)

THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: performs regularly in pit orchestras as a member of the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Broadway in Chicago, local blues band Second City Soul, klezmer band Maxwell Street, and others. In addition to her conservatory background and classical training, you can also catch her teaching or playing at the Old Town School of Folk Music.

RAQUEL NAVARRO (*she/her; Violin*)

THEO: *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. CHICAGO: *Singing in the Rain* (Children's Theater of Winnetka), *The Addams Family* (Uptown Music Theater Highland Park), student at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. Enjoys teaching violin, arranging music, photography, and backpacking.

RACHEL SCHULDT (*she/her; Cello*)

THEO: *Sweeney Todd*, *Grey Gardens*, *Assassins*. CHICAGO: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Music Theater Works), *Sweeney Todd* (Kokandy Productions), *Mary Rose* (Black Button Eyes Productions), *Big Fish* (BoHo Theatre), *Lizzie* (Firebrand), *Fun Home*, *Violet* (Loyola University), *High Fidelity* (Columbia College). REGIONAL: *Spring Awakening* (Theatre Nebula), *Sweeney Todd* (Wheaton Drama). *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Kiss Me, Kate* (Elgin Community College). Graduate of Augustana College in Cello Performance. Beyond the arts, she enjoys traveling and baseball. Love to Megan!

L. WALTER STEARNS (*he/him; Director*)

THEO: Debut. Producer/Director at Mercury Theater Chicago. Directed Sondheim's *Company* (2003 and 2018) *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods* (2010 and 2000) *Pacific Overtures*, *Gypsy*, *Sweeney Todd* (2004 and 1997) *A Little Night Music* (2001), *Passion*, *Merrily We Roll Along*. Walter has received Jeff Awards, After Dark Awards, BroadwayWorld Awards, the Larry Sloan Advocate Award (Season of Concern), the first Guy Adkins award for his contributions to musical theatre, and the Franny Award as a distinguished alumnus of the University of Illinois at Chicago. He recently collaborated with Brenda Didier on *Jersey Boys*. mercurytheaterchicago.com

EUGENE DIZON (*he/him, Music Director*)

THEO: *Starting Here, Starting Now*. CHICAGO: 6 Jeff Awards (*Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Amadeus*, *Company*, *Into the Woods*, *Merrily We Roll Along*), Jeff nominations (*A Grand Night for Singing*, *Candide*, *Nine*, *Closer Than Ever*, *A Little Night Music*, *Passion*, *Colette Collage*, *Falsettos*); 4 After Dark Awards (*Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A New Brain*, *Merrily We Roll Along*), a BroadwayWorld Award for Mercury's *Avenue Q*. Recent projects: *Jersey Boys* and *Young Frankenstein* (Mercury); *The Producers* and *Avenue Q* (Music Theater Works); *TO BE* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Mr. Burns - a post-electric play* (Theater Wit). Thanks to Fred, Stephanie, Walter, and Brenda.

BRENDA DIDIER (*she/her, Choreographer & Musical Staging*)

THEO: *Cats* (directing debut in 2010!), *Evita*, *Chess*, *Light in the Piazza*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hello Again* and *Smokey Joe's Cafe*. CHICAGO: Paramount, Chicago Shakespeare, The Goodman, Marriott, Porchlight Music Theatre, Mercury Theater, Kokandy and many others. She is a multiple Jeff Award recipient in both direction and choreography. Thank you to Walter, Eugene, Chris and Fred for this opportunity and to this glorious cast, design team, band and crew for the collaboration. Artistic Director/Founder- Lincolnshire Academy of Dance- 26th Season! For Molly LeCaptain.

ANGELA WEBER MILLER (*she/her, Scenic Designer*) THEO: Debut. Angela is a two-time Jeff Award-winning Chicago-based scenery designer (*Seascape*, *Remy Bumpo & Who's Holiday!*, *Theater Wit*) and a member of United Scenic Artists. Outside of theater, she spends time with her family, gardening, and traveling.

PATRICK CHAN (*he/him; Lighting Designer*) THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Spring Awakening* and *Cabaret* (Porchlight).

He has been the resident lighting designer at the WagonWheel Center for the Arts in Warsaw, IN, for the past 32 years. A graduate of the MFA design program at Northwestern University, his lighting designs have enhanced numerous events for corporate clients, special live and televised events including McDonald's, Mercedes Benz, Beam-Suntory, the opening and closing ceremonies of the AIBA World Boxing Championships, the Ryder Cup, and the NFL Honors, amongst others.

CINDY MOON (*she/her, Costume Designer*) THEO: *The Threepenny Opera* (Jeff nom.). CHICAGO: *Wise Guys* (The Factory Theater); *The Diary of Anne Frank*

(Young People's Theatre); *On the 20th Century, Promises, Promises, & She Loves Me* (Jeff nom., Blank Theatre Company). REGIONAL: *Hello, Dolly!* (Ohio Light Opera); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Tuacahn) & Costume Lead at Steppenwolf Theatre for *Purpose* and *Little Bear Ridge Road*. Cindy is a Chicago-based freelance costume designer, originally from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Education: MFA in Costume Design and Technology, Virginia Tech. cindymooncostume

ISA NOE (*they/them; Props Designer*) THEO: *Baked!*, *Assassins*. CHICAGO: *The Singularity Play* (Jackalope), *Rooted* (Oil Lamp), *Skunk and Badger* (Lifeline), *The Consul* (Third Eye Theatre), *Shaw v Tunney* and *Chagall in School* (Grippo Stage Company). Graduate of Northwestern University in Theatre with a specialization in scenic design. Isa would like to thank their family, mentors, and partner for their loving encouragement and unwavering support.

RICK SIMS (*he/him; Sound Designer*) THEO: *Songs for a New World* & *Once Upon a Mattress*. CHICAGO: *Steppenwolf*, *Lookingglass*, *Northlight*, *Congo Square*, *Writers*, *Chicago Children's*, *Court*, & *American Blues*. BROADWAY: *Composer*, *The Thanksgiving Play* (Second Stage). REGIONAL: *Arena Stage*, *Roundhouse*, *Alliance*, *South Coast Rep*, *The Getty*, *Boston Playwrights' Theatre*, *Arden Theatre Co.*, *2nd Stage*, *Playwrights Horizons*, *Actors Theatre of Louisville* and *Portland Playhouse*. Artistic Associate, *Lookingglass* & Artistic Affiliate, *American Blues*. Sound Design Jeff Awards for *Moby Dick*, *Frankenstein* & *Hephaestus* (*Lookingglass*); and a BTAA for *Brothers In the Dust* (*Congo Square*). Sims also wrote book, music, and lyrics for *Hillbilly Antigone* (*Lookingglass*).

CHARLIE BAKER (*he/they; Intimacy & Violence Director*) THEO: *The Threepenny Opera*. CHICAGO: *Othello* (Court); *Man of the People* (Stage Left); *Twelfth Night* (Midsummer Flight); *Fences* (American Blues); *Big Fish*, *A Christmas Story*, & *Kiss Me Kate* (Marriott); *Romeo & Juliet* (UIC); *Into The Woods* (Northwestern). REGIONAL: *Unseen*, *Once on This Island*, & *How I Learned What I Learned* (Oregon Shakespeare). Xploringgender.com

AUGUST RAIN STAMPER (*she/her; Dialect Designer*) THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Shrek* and *The Producers* (Music Theatre Works), *Summer and Smoke* (Violet Sky Productions), *The Luckiest* (Raven Theatre). REGIONAL: *Merry Wives of Windsor* & *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Grand Valley

Shakespeare Festival). Chicago transplant hailing from Louisiana with a BFA in Acting from Webster University (2015).

SHAY GORDON (*they/them; Stage Manager*) THEO: *Assassins* (Stage Manager). CHICAGO: *Saint Hildegard: The Rupertsberg Tour* (Workshop at Theo ASM), *Sex Tips For Straight Women from a Gay Man* (Greenhouse Theatre, SM), *Right To Be Forgotten* (Raven Theatre, ASM), *Small Mouth Sounds* (Human Needs Theatre Project, SM). They couldn't be more grateful to work on another Sondheim masterpiece. Many thanks to the fabulous Theo team, friends and family for all the support!

YASMEEN ABIAD (*she/her; Asst. Director*) THEO: Debut. She is a director, teaching artist, and producer from New York City. She is a rising senior at The Theatre School at DePaul University where she double majors in Theatre Arts and Creative Writing. Yasmeen currently works with Creative Root and her past credits include *Monster* by Neal Bell and *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell, both of which she assistant directed at DePaul.

ETHAN M. COLISH (*he/they; Asst. Stage Manager*) THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Shrek*, *Brigadoon* & *The Producers* (Music Theater Works).

AARON KAHN (*he/him, Asst. Music Director*) THEO: Debut. CHICAGO: *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Mercury Theater Chicago) & *The Producers* (Music Theater Works), both assisting Eugene Dizon, who he is excited to be working with again! REGIONAL: *The Lightning Thief* (Stagedoor Manor), *Rent: School Edition* (Glenbrook South High School), *Spring Awakening* and *Be More Chill* (4 Chairs Theater), & *Edges* (Phoenix Theater). Aaron is also a private voice teacher at the Christopher Laughlin School of Music in Northbrook.

NICHOLAS REINHART (*he/him, Asst. Production Manager*) THEO: *Godspell*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *8-TRACK*, *Songs for a New World*. NYC: *Jungle Jim* (Theatre Row). CHICAGO: *American Psycho* (2024 Jeff Award - Best Production of a Musical), *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Hundred Days*, *Head Over Heels* (Kokandy); *Get Out Alive*, *Titus Andronicus* (Haven); and *Underscore*, CPA Theatricals, and *Circle Theatre*. UPCOMING: *Alice By Heart* & *Chicago Musical Theatre Festival* (Kokandy); *SENTINELS* (CPA Theatricals). Previously named one of *Windy City Times*' 30 Under 30, honoring the best and brightest individuals in Chicago's


LGBTQIA+ community, and currently serving as the Productions Manager at The Den Theatre.

FRED ANZEVINO (*he/him; Artistic Director*) has had the distinct honor of serving as Artistic Director since the company's inception in 1997. A graduate of Rhode Island College, he also studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and George Washington University. A five-time Jeff Award-winning director, he continues to remain in awe of the extraordinary talent that is the lifeline of our storefront theaters. A very special thank you to Walter, Eugene, Brenda, our artists, patrons, donors, board of directors, and staff (especially our producing director, Christopher Pazdernik) and the City of Evanston. Always moving forward with compassion, forgiveness, concern through the eyes of everyone.

MATTHEW R. CHASE (*he/him; Director of Production*) THEO: *Sondheim Tribute Revue*, *Assassins*, *Baked!* (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* (Marriott). CHICAGO/PRODUCTION MANAGER: *Spring Awakening* and *Broadway in your Backyard* (Porchlight Music Theatre) & *Mary's Seacole* and *Heisenberg* (Griffin). Director of Production at Theo (*Assassins*, *Baked*, *The Threepenny Opera* & *Passing Strange*) and Production Manager at Theater Wit (*Inanimate*, *Who's Holiday!*, *Household Spirits*, *the Whistleblower*, *Hurricane Diane* & *Mr. Burns*).

CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK (*any, Casting & Producing Director*) THEO: *Godspell* & next season: *The Secret Garden*. CHICAGO & REGIONAL/DIRECTING: *Avenue Q* and *...Spelling Bee* (Music Theatre Works), *Who's Holiday* (Theatre Wit); *Big River* (Round Barn); *High Fidelity* (Jeff Awards, Best Director & Best Production), *The Spitfire Grill*, *The Last Session* & *Hands on a Hardbody* (Refuge Theatre Project); & eight productions for Porchlight Revisits. CHICAGO/CASTING: *Hedwig & the Angry Inch* (Haven), *Gods & Monsters* (Frame of Reference), Porchlight Music Theatre & CPA Theatricals. An openly HIV+ artist, Christopher thanks you for supporting live theater. IG: @see.paz



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For more information, or to make a donation, visit
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2022 Sarah Siddons Award winner, Sandy Duncan with the 2022 scholarship recipients.

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 award-winning 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

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