

spartanburg youth! theatre

Disney
THE

LION KING ©Disney



Music and Lyrics by
ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE

Book by
ROGER ALLERS & IRÈNE MEECHI

Additional Music and Lyrics by
LÉBO M, MARK MANCINÀ, JAY RIFKIN, AND HANS ZIMMER

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024

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Based on the Broadway production directed by John Turturro
Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and "Love Her Like Me" written by WB Yeats
"It's a Small World" written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman



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What is SYT's Junior Advisor Board (JAB)?

The Junior Advisory Board (JAB for short) is a group of 10th-12th graders with a passion for the performing arts and for serving the Spartanburg Youth Theatre (SYT). JAB members apply for a spot on the board and must have been involved onstage or backstage in at least two previous SYT productions before they can apply.

JAB exists to allow the youth to have a voice at SYT. They give the SYT director valuable input regarding shows and productions. JAB also provides extensive services to the theatre, including but not limited to assisting with auditions and audition workshops, participating in at least two SYT productions each season, and producing the annual Senior Showcase.

Each May rising 10th-12th graders interested in applying for JAB will have the opportunity to submit an application that will be posted to the SYT website and Facebook page.

2023-2024 SEASON

Roald Dahl's
Matilda
The Musical, Jr.

OCTOBER 13-15, 2023

Book by Dennis Kelly. Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin. Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence...and special powers! She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, Miss Honey. However, the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, despises children and loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage, cleverness, and extraordinary imagination that will lead her classmates to revolt and take back their freedom!

A Christmas Carol

DECEMBER 1-3, 2023

By Catherine Bush. Ebenezer Scrooge hates Christmas and is determined to avoid celebrating the season. But, he receives a visit from the ghost of Jacob Marley, his former business partner. Marley warns Scrooge that the same fate awaits him unless he changes his miserly ways. With the help of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet-to-Come, Scrooge learns to open his heart to all those around him. A new adaptation with quick-changing actors and many of your favorite carols, this play will leave you glowing with the joy of the season.



FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024

Music and Lyrics by Elton John & Tim Rice. Additional Music and Lyrics by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Hans Zimmer. Book by Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi. Simba, a naive and curious lion cub, struggles to find his place in nature's great circle of life. After being forced into exile by his evil and greedy uncle, Scar, Simba meets hilarious friends Timon & Pumbaa, and with their help, overcomes great fear and adversity to take his rightful place as ruler of the Pride Lands.

The Rainbow Fish

APRIL 12-14, 2024

Adapted by Austin Zumbo, from the book written and illustrated by Marchus Pfister, translated by J. Alison James. With shiny, multi-colored scales, Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in all of the ocean, and the only one of his kind. But when Rainbow Fish refuses to share his vibrant, shimmering scales, the whole ocean seems to turn against the vain creature. Unhappy that no one adores him anymore, the Rainbow Fish seeks out the wise Octopus, who helps him learn that it's far better to be admired for being kind than for being beautiful.

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A Word from SYT

During my ninth season as Artistic Director at SYT, I can't help but reflect on the significant growth I've seen at this organization over the years. I have been privileged to watch as children grow quite literally in height, and more practically in maturity and skill. The bittersweet part of observing that growth means I experience immense pride and joy in watching these children develop, but eventually I must also say goodbye to them and see them off as they enter their next journey into college.

But isn't that how growth works? Growth is necessary and good, but can come with a little hardship and bittersweet emotions. The productions in our 2023-2024 season truly exemplify growth in every aspect. In *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.*, Matilda grows in confidence and intelligence as she stands up to Miss Trunchbull. In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge grows in compassion and empathy as he faces his potential fate and the hard truth about what others think of him. In *Disney's The Lion King Jr.*, Simba matures and grows from a young cub to a King of his land as he faces his past trauma and grief. In *The Rainbow Fish*, Rainbow Fish must face his own arrogance and selfishness in order to grow into a fish who is willing to share and give. The growth these character's experience come with hard work and even loss, but what they receive in return is worth the trial.

Seeing SYT grow over 8 years has come with its own hardship, but more importantly many joys! Due to our continued growth, this season we have added a new member to our staff. It is my pleasure to welcome staff member Maddie Tisdell as our Education Coordinator! She will help accommodate the incredible demand we're seeing in our school time performances, public performances and in our conservatory classes and workshops. This season we will also be growing our outreach as we launch *SYT on Tour* this spring. This tour will provide opportunities for theatre to influence and impact young children's lives all over the county!

We're so grateful to you, our patrons. You are the key reason why SYT continues to grow. Thank you for supporting us, believing in us, and growing with us!

Director's Note

Often times when I make a reference from my childhood, the Gen-Z teens of today look at me with eyes glazed over and a blank stare. They don't know what I'm talking about and don't have a reference point to the "classics" that made up my generation! It's rare that there is a movie from my childhood that is still relevant to today's youth. *The Lion King* is one of the few that has withstood the test of time. When we first started rehearsals, I asked the cast to share a fond memory they had of watching the movie or seeing the Broadway show, and many of them had a story to share. *The Lion King* has a timeless story, some of the best Disney music to date, and has resonated with audiences for almost 30 years! We're thrilled to bring this gorgeous production to our stage, and if today is the day your child experiences *The Lion King* for the first time, we're honored to be a part of your *Lion King* history.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Adam Sanders
Artistic Director
Director of Disney's *The Lion King, Jr.*

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JADE ALFORD

LIGHTING DESIGNER
PETER LAMSON

February 9-11, 2024

2023-2024 SEASON PLATINUM SPONSORS

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

Rafiki	Madison Miller*	10th	Dorman High
Mufasa	Austyn Turley	11th	Dorman High
Sarabi	Alex Richards	10th	Dorman High
Zazu	Jaiden Nolan	11th	Dorman High
Scar	Jonathan Wilson*	11th	Imago Dei Academy
Young Simba	Noah Wilson*	4th	Hendrix Elementary
Young Nala	Jane Martin	6th	Oakbrook Preparatory
Sarafina	Jaeleah Wise*	9th	Dorman Freshman Campus
Shenzi	Destiny McCorvey	12th	Dorman High
Banzai	Josiah Greene*	9th	Broome High
Ed	Dylan Morrison	11th	Governor's School of Science & Math
Timon	Strong Jones	9th	Fountain Inn High
Pumbaa	Gabriel Keller*	12th	Dorman High
Simba	Corin Thomas	12th	Dorman High
Nala	Nicole Marin	12th	Dorman High
Dance Captain/Ensemble	Neaisha Jones*	10th	Dorman High
Dance Captain/Ensemble	Jake Leonard	12th	Dorman High
Ensemble	Colten Bruce	10th	Dorman High
	Philip Crawford	10th	Dorman High
	Addyson Crocker	11th	Spartanburg High
	Beckett Ferguson	10th	Spartanburg Day
	Mackenzie Flowers*	12th	Union County High
	Ava Hisker	12th	Byrnes High School
	Cookie Miller	12th	Greenville Fine Arts Center
	Adri Patterson	11th	Dorman High

* SYT Mainstage Debut

CAST



Colten Bruce



Philip Crawford



Addyson Crocker



Beckett Ferguson



Mackenzie Flowers



Josiah Greene



Matthew Hansen ...



Ava Hisker



Neaisha Jones



Strong Jones



Gabriel Keller



Jake Leonard



Nicole Marin



Jane Martin



Adison McAbee



Destiny McCorvey



Cookie Miller



Madison Miller



Dylan Morrison



Jaiden Nolan



Adri Patterson



Alex Richards



Corin Thomas



Austyn Turley



Jonathan Wilson



Noah Wilson



Jaeleah Wise



PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Adam Sanders
Assistant Director	Anna Browning
Stage Manager	Matthew Hansen, 12th, Dorman High
Assistant Stage Manager	Adison McAbee, 11th, Landrum High
Music Director	Ben Chumley
Choreographer	Lustra Miller
Scenic Designer	Clint Walker
Costume Coordinators.....	Kelly Casteel, Anna Ross
Costumes	Suwanee Academy of the Arts, Oakbrook Preparatory
Zazu Puppet.....	Jennifer Bonner
Makeup Designer	Samantha Lee
Properties Master	Jade Alford
Lighting Designer	Peter Lamson
Dance Captains	Neaisha Jones, Jake Leonard
Scenic Painters	Jade Alford, Oliver Ellis, Emily Rose Watts
Sound Consultant	Trey Hendon
Poster Design	Peter B. Kay
Photography.....	Wendy McCarty
Stage Crew	Corbin Gilbert*, 12th, Byrnes High Madeline Hall, 10th, Chesnee High Gloriana Howard*, 10th, Chapman High Chloe Hujik, 10th, Spartanburg Day Ensley Karow*, 11th, Landrum High Aspen Ladoucer, 11th, Dorman High Olivia Marsh, 8th, Dawkins Middle Cooper Martsberger*, 7th, Spartanburg Day Bella Scott, 10th, Homeschool


* SYT Crew Debut

SPECIAL THANKS

B.J. Hollis • Dawn Rollins • Jay Coffman • Jenny Bonner
 Karin Coolidge • Patty Etherton
 Productions Unlimited • Ashleigh Shuler • SYT Council



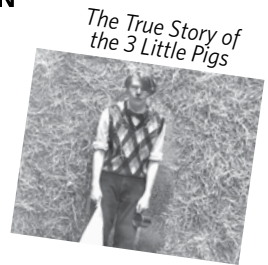
Check out our curriculum companion for
Disney's The Lion King Jr. at [spartanburgyouththeatre.com/
upcomingproduction](http://spartanburgyouththeatre.com/upcomingproduction). The companion includes vocabulary,
educational activities, and excellent discussion pieces for
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SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

SCENE 1: PRIDE ROCK

Circle of Life with Nants' Ingonyama Rafiki, Ensemble

SCENE 2: SCAR'S CAVE

SCENE 3: THE PRIDELANDS

Grasslands Chant Ensemble

SCENE 4: THE PRIDELANDS

The Lioness Hunt Lionesses

I Just Can't Wait to Be King Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble

SCENE 5: THE ELEPHANT GRAVEYARD

Be Prepared Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Hyenas

SCENE 6: THE PRIDELANDS

They Live in You Mufasa

SCENE 7: THE GORGE

The Stampede Simba, Mufasa, Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Ensemble

The Mourning Sarabi, Young Nala, Rafiki, Lionesses, Hyenas

SCENE 8: THE DESERT & THE JUNGLE

Hakuna Matata Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Simba

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: SCAR'S CAVE

SCENE 2: THE PRIDELANDS

Shadowland Nala, Lionesses, Rafiki

SCENE 3: THE JUNGLE

Endless Night Simba

Can You Feel the Love Tonight Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble

He Lives in You Rafiki, Simba, Ensemble

SCENE 4: PRIDE ROCK

Luau Hawaiian Treat Timon, Pumbaa

Finale Company

MEET THE CAST

COLTEN BRUCE (ENSEMBLE) is extremely excited to be back at SYT! Colten has worked on many productions in the past with SYT, Dorman High School, and the Spartanburg Little Theatre. Some of his favorite roles include Crutchie in *Disney's Newsies Jr.*, Jem in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and most recently Cosmo in *Singin' in the Rain*. Colten attends Dorman High School and loves to draw, sing, and perform for others. Colten would like to thank his family and friends for all of their love and support throughout this rehearsal process.

PHILIP CRAWFORD (ENSEMBLE) is a 10th grader at Dorman High School. He's really excited to be a part of his fourth SYT production. His favorite production was *Disney's Newsies Jr.* He really loves the color purple and the movie *Titanic*. He would like to thank his family and friends for all of his support.

ADDYSON CROCKER (ENSEMBLE) is so excited to be back onstage with SYT! She was last seen at SYT in *Annie Jr.* Some of her favorite roles include Liesl in *The Sound of Music (SLT)* and Anna in Spartanburg District 7's production of *Disney's Frozen*. Addyson is a junior at Spartanburg High School. She is also a member of the Junior Advisory Board here at SYT. She would like to thank Adam, Anna, Ben, and Lustra for this opportunity and for being so supportive throughout this process. She would also like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support.

BECKETT FERGUSON (ENSEMBLE) is a 10th grader at Spartanburg Day School where he is captain of the swim team. Beckett has enjoyed being involved in many SYT productions over the years including *Elf the Musical Jr.*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and most recently as Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. Beckett would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support.

MACKENZIE FLOWERS (ENSEMBLE) is very excited to make her SYT debut! Mackenzie is a senior at Union County High School and has been in multiple shows during her time there. Her favorite roles include Amber in *Hairspray* and Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She would like to thank her family and directors for all the love and support through this journey!

JOSIAH GREENE (BANZAI) is a freshman at Broome High School. He was in the ensemble for Spartanburg District 7's production of *Disney's Frozen*, and has been seen in several of SYT's *Storybook Live!* productions, including *The Day the Crayons Quit*, *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, and *Ricky the Rock That Couldn't Roll*. Josiah serves in Student Government, Spartanburg Jack and Jill chapter, and is a member of the football and track teams. In his spare time, Josiah loves to spend time with his family and watch movies. Josiah would like to thank SYT for their support and encouragement.

AVA HISKER (ENSEMBLE) is so excited to be performing again! Ava was most recently seen on the SYT stage as Miss Honey in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* Ava has also performed as Mrs. Tottendale in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web*, and Red Dragon in *Dragons Love Tacos*. She is a senior at Byrnes High School and plans to study aerospace engineering in college. She would like to thank her family, friends, and SYT for all the support and love they have given her!

NEAISHA JONES (DANCE CAPTAIN/ENSEMBLE) is a sophomore at Dorman High School and is very excited to make her SYT debut! She would like to thank the amazing and outstanding cast for working hard and her friends and family for coming to support her.

STRONG JONES (TIMON) is 15 years old and has been participating in theatre since 2019. He has been in several SYT productions, including *Disney's Newsies Jr.* (Specs,) *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Gangster 1,) and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* (Michael Wormwood.) Strong is a freshman at Fountain Inn High School and is excited to spend as much time as he can at SYT. Strong would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support.

GABE KELLER (PUMBAA) is very excited to be a part this show! Gabe is a senior at Dorman High School where he recently performed in their production of *Singin' in the Rain*. Gabe plans to pursue theatre and dance at Converse University next year. Gabe would like to thank his mentors at Inman Theatre, Buren and Milner Martin, for all they have done to give him a wonderful start in the theatre world. He would also like to thank his mom for her continued love and support.

JAKE LEONARD (DANCE CAPTAIN/ENSEMBLE) is so excited to be in his final SYT mainstage production. Jake is a senior at Dorman High School and is the president of SYT's Junior Advisory Board. His most notable roles have been Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain* at Dorman High School, Davey in *Disney's Newsies Jr.* at SYT, and Rolf in *The Sound of Music* with Spartanburg Little Theatre. He enjoys acting so much he is planning to pursue a BFA in musical theatre. Jake feels so blessed by the support of his friends and family. He would also like to thank Adam Sanders and Jay Coffman for the countless opportunities they've provided him. He can't wait for you to see this amazing show!

NICOLE MARIN (NALA) was previously seen at SYT in *Disney's Newsies Jr.* and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* Nicole is a senior at Dorman High School and her favorite subjects are math and dance. She would like to thank her parents, friends, cast/crew, and directors for such an amazing opportunity and all their love and support.

JANE MARTIN (YOUNG NALA) is ecstatic to be returning to the SYT stage to help tell such a beloved and timeless favorite. Some of Jane's favorite credits include *Annie Jr.* (Duffy) at SYT and *Peter Pan Jr.* (Tiger Lily) and *Seussical Jr.* (Mrs. Mayor) at The Mill CAC. Jane is a 6th grader at Oakbrook Prep and enjoys singing, acting, musical theatre, and spending time with her family and friends. Jane would like to thank her family and the *Lion King* cast and crew for enabling her to grow and be part of such a wonderful production.

DESTINY MCCORVEY (SHENZI/ENSEMBLE) is a senior at Dorman High School and is so grateful to SYT for bringing her on for her senior season! Destiny was last seen at SYT as Belle/Kitty in *A Christmas Carol*. She is a part of the Dorman Theatre Department where she most recently stage managed their summer production of *Finding Nemo Jr.* Destiny would like to thank her friends, family, and colleagues for supporting her as she's grown in her theatre journey. She would especially like to thank her brother for always helping her learn her lines and her mother for always bringing her to rehearsal.

COOKIE MILLER (ENSEMBLE) is very excited to be back on the SYT stage! She is a senior at the Greenville Fine Arts Center. After high school, she plans to pursue a BFA in acting. She was last seen at SYT in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* as Mrs. Wormwood. She has also been seen in *Disney's Newsies Jr.* and SYT's blackbox production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. She would like to give a huge thank you to the whole production team, and to her theatre teacher for always pushing her to her full potential!

MADISON MILLER (RAFIKI) is excited to be in this production with SYT. Madison is a sophomore at Dorman High School and has performed in many productions. Previous credits include *9 to 5 the Musical*, *Finding Nemo*, and her personal favorite *Seussical*, where she played the Sour Kangaroo. She is thankful to be able to perform with this amazing cast and wants to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support.

DYLAN MORRISON (ED) is excited to be doing another SYT show. He recently transferred to the Governor's School of Science and Mathematics. He was last seen at SYT as ensemble in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* and Oscar Delancey in *Disney's Newsies Jr.* Dylan would like to thank his parents and teachers.

JAIDEN NOLAN (ZAZU) is thrilled to be back at SYT again. Jaiden is a junior at Dorman High School. He was last seen at SYT as Mr. Wormwood in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* He has also been in several shows with the Dorman Theatre Department, including *9 to 5 the Musical* as Josh Newstead. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.

ADRI PATTERSON (ENSEMBLE) is a junior at Dorman High School and is excited to be back on the SYT stage. Some of Adri's favorite credits include *Disney's Newsies Jr.* and stage managing *A Christmas Carol*. Adri would love to thank her parents for their continuous love and support, and Adam for giving her this amazing opportunity.

ALEX RICHARDS (SARABI) is a sophomore at Dorman High School. Alex loves being a part of theatre, whether it's onstage or backstage. This is her second SYT show but it's only the beginning! Alex is thankful for her mom, family and friends by her side supporting her through thick and thin.

CORIN THOMAS (SIMBA) has been in many SYT productions, his favorite credits including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Charlie), *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Edmund), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert Martin). Corin is an honors student at Dorman High School, where he participates in Beta Club, National Honors Society, and orchestra. He would like to thank his family for their continued love and support.

AUSTYN TURLEY (MUFASA) has performed in many Dorman Theatre and SYT productions. His favorite credits include *Shrek the Musical* (Dwarf) and *Godspell Jr. (We Beseech Thee)*. Austyn enjoys dancing, acting, and playing volleyball. His favorite subjects in school are social studies and science. He would like to thank his family for all their continued encouragement and love.

JONATHAN WILSON (SCAR) is a high school junior and is excited to make his SYT debut! His love of musical theatre has led to his involvement at Logos Theatre in Taylors as well as playing Troy Bolton in *High School Musical Jr.* at Dorman High School. His love of singing led his sisters to buy him a sweatshirt that says, "Caution: May Break out into Spontaneous Singing!" Jonathan has enjoyed voice, violin, and piano lessons for many years, and also enjoys cross country, track, reading a good book, and a little gaming. Upon graduation, Jonathan plans to attend Clemson University to attain his degree in engineering and work for NASA.

NOAH WILSON (YOUNG SIMBA) is proud to be making his SYT debut! Noah is a student at Hendrix Elementary School and his favorite subject is math. He would like to thank his parents and family for all their love and support.

JAELEAH WISE (SARAFINA) is a freshman at Dorman Freshman Campus and is thrilled to participate in her first SYT production. Excited about the prospect of more performances ahead, she eagerly anticipates sharing the stage with her family and loved ones, expressing heartfelt thanks for their unwavering support in her theatrical pursuits.

MEET THE CREW

CORBIN GILBERT is so excited for his first ever production with SYT! Corbin is a senior at Byrnes High School and loves engineering. He is a member of the James F. Byrnes Robotics team and loves every second of it. After high school, he plans to major in civil engineering while at college. Corbin would like to thank his friends and family for all the support and love they give to him!

MADELINE HALL loves crewing at SYT. Between the amazing community and superb shows, the experience is wonderful and she enjoys it so much. She recommends it to anyone who wants to try!

GLORIANA HOWARD is extremely grateful for the opportunity to crew! This is her first time crewing a show, though she has participated in many SYT productions in the past. Some of her favorite credits include *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat* (Sally), *Alice in Wonderland* (Alice), and *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Present). She would like to congratulate the cast on a beautiful show and thank everyone who helped her be a part of it!

CHLOE HUJIK is so excited to be crewing this production! She last crewed at SYT as the Assistant Stage Manager for *A Christmas Carol*. She'd like to thank her friends and family for all their support.

ENSLEY KAROW is thrilled to be a part of this production! She was last seen at SYT as Acrobat/Ensemble in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* Other credits include *Disney's The Lion King Jr.* at Greer Children's Theatre and Patrick in *SpongeBob the Musical* at Landrum High School. She will be playing the role of Doctor/Ensemble in the upcoming production of *Matilda the Musical* for Spartanburg School District One in April. She loves spending time with her rescue cat, Ali, and is excited to be a part of another SYT production.

ASPEN LADOU CER has done several shows with the Dorman Theatre Department, her favorites being *9 to 5 the Musical*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has crewed one show at SYT before and is so excited to be back. Aspen is a junior at Dorman High School and her favorite subjects are history and science. She would like to thank her friends, family, and teachers for supporting her.

OLIVIA MARSH is excited to be a part of another SYT production. She has crewed and performed in several shows, most recently onstage as The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come in *A Christmas Carol*. Olivia is an 8th grader at Dawkins Middle School and is an aspiring songwriter and performer. Olivia would like to thank her family for all their support and Adam for allowing her to be a part of the show.

COOPER MARTSBERGER is thrilled to be crewing his first SYT show. He has looked forward to working behind the scenes at SYT since he was in the third grade. Cooper loves film, acting, art and reading. He has recently become interested in learning more about directing and production design. He is grateful for all that he has learned from the cast, crew and production team at SYT, and he appreciates this opportunity to grow in a new way offstage.

BELLA RECTOR is a senior at Spartanburg High School and has participated in 11 SYT productions, most recently *A Christmas Carol* and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* Bella will be attending Black Hills State University in the fall.

BELLA SCOTT is a 10th grade homeschooler and is thrilled to be a part of this show! She has participated in eight SYT productions, including Assistant Stage Manager for *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.*, and Kid in Suit in *Dragons Love Tacos*. She's so excited for you to see the show and will stop talking now so you can enjoy!

MEET THE **PRODUCTION TEAM**

ADAM SANDERS (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) has been Artistic Director since 2015 and relishes directing the program that he grew up in. He previously taught and directed at the SC Children's Theatre in Greenville, SC. Some of his favorite directing credits include *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Disney's Newsies Jr.*, *Godspell Jr.*, *Disney's Freaky Friday the Musical*, *Elf the Musical Jr.*, *Disney's Aladdin Jr.*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Seussical Jr.*, and many more. While he loves his theatre roles, his favorite role is being husband to his favorite human in the world: his wife Kelsey. Galatians 2:20.

ANNA BROWNING (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) is thrilled to be back with SYT after having assistant directed *Disney's Newsies Jr.* last season, and she's grateful to work with this outstanding group of cast, crew, and creatives! Anna graduated from Converse University with a degree in theatre and went on to work in regional theatres such as Florida Repertory Theatre and Blowing Rock Stage Company. She spent over ten years in the acting business in New York City, where she studied at Stella Adler Studio of Acting, HB Studio, Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts, and Upright Citizens Brigade. Some of Anna's favorite past productions include *Steel Magnolias*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *A Toast to Tennessee*. Many thanks to Adam for giving her the opportunity to be a part of the incredible community of people at SYT!

MATTHEW HANSEN (STAGE MANAGER) is a senior at Dorman High School and an accomplished actor and crew member. He has participated in fifteen productions, most recently playing Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* here at SYT. He is so thankful for his incredible directors, cast, and crew for their love and dedication.

ADISON MCABEE (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is so excited for you to watch this magnificent show! She is endlessly grateful to be able to ASM for the first time with this amazing cast. You may have seen her onstage as a Caroler in SYT's *A Christmas Carol*, or last season as Mrs. Pugh/Star-to-be in *Annie Jr.*, Medda Larkin in *Disney's Newsies Jr.*, and Trix the Aviatrix in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Adison is so thankful for each and every one of the cast members, as well as everyone on the creative team. Break all your legs, my loves!

BEN CHUMLEY (MUSIC DIRECTOR) is thrilled to work with the talented and dedicated *Lion King* cast and crew, having previously music directed SYT's *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Disney's Newsies Jr.*, *Disney's Freaky Friday*, and *Godspell Jr.* Ben is a music director, pianist, composer, and workshop instructor who has been involved in over 100 productions throughout the Carolinas, New York, Toronto, Las Vegas, and Paris. Although he regularly works with several upstate theatres and college theatre departments, SLT will always be home. In recent seasons, he has served as SLT music director for *The Sound of Music*, *RENT*, *We Will Rock You*, *Sh-Boom*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *The Little Mermaid*, among many others. Ben studied at New York University, University of Toronto, and Berklee College of Music, and has worked with the New York Opera Forum, Toronto Curtain Call Players, and is a past conductor of the North Carolina Community Chorus. Offstage, he serves as Director of Music for Trinity United Methodist Church in Spartanburg.

LUSTRA MILLER (CHOREOGRAPHER) is a proud native of Spartanburg, South Carolina and currently resides in Greenville, South Carolina. She is a graduate of Winthrop University and holds a Bachelor of Arts in dance performance and Masters in Education from Anderson University. Lustra is currently employed by Furman University as the Assistant Director of Admissions for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In her spare time, Lustra loves to exercise, teach and choreograph at local community theaters, try new restaurants in Greenville, read, and spend time with her family and friends. She is so excited for the cast and crew and is proud of all their hard work.

CLINT WALKER (SCENIC DESIGNER) is excited to be back collaborating with the SYT team! His previous SYT design credits include last season's *Disney's Newsies Jr.*, *Disney's Freaky Friday the Musical*, as well as past shows *Elf the Musical Jr.*, *Seussical Jr.*, and *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* Additionally his design collaborations with SLT have included this season's *The Sound of Music*, *Motown Magic*, and the upcoming *School of Rock the Musical*, last season's *Bright Star*, as well as past favorites including *The Addams Family*, *Mamma Mia*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Chicago* and *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. Some of Clint's other production credits include scenic designer for *Into the Woods* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Centre Stage as well as *Once on this Island* and *Charlotte's Web* at SCCT.

KELLY CASTEEL (COSTUME COORDINATOR) is excited to be working again with SYT as costume coordinator. Her previous costuming experience includes SYT's production of *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.* and SLT's *Motown Magic*. She would like to thank Adam for another opportunity to work with SYT and a special thank you to Anna Ross for always being down for a new adventure and keeping her sane. Congratulations to the cast and crew on this show, it's been a pleasure to be a part of it!

ANNA ROSS (COSTUME COORDINATOR) is excited for the opportunity to help with her first SYT production. She would like to thank Adam and Kelly for bringing her on the team and is proud of the cast and crew for all they do!

SAMANTHA LEE (MAKEUP DESIGNER) is thrilled to be a part of this show. She has a BS in theatre: acting and directing from Baldwin Wallace University. Though this is her first collaboration with SYT, she has worked both backstage and onstage with Spartanburg Little Theatre, as well as stage managed multiple productions, including the upcoming *The Red Velvet Cake War*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for the wild experience!

JADE ALFORD (PROPERTIES MASTER/SCENIC PAINTER) is so excited to be working with SYT again. She has a BFA in musical theatre from Limestone College. She previously designed props for SYT's *Annie Jr.* and *Dragons Love Tacos*. Her scenic painting credits at SYT include *Charlotte's Web*, *Annie Jr.*, *Disney's Newsies Jr.*, and *Dragons Love Tacos*.

PETER LAMSON (Lighting Designer/Technical Director) has worked with SLT/SYT since 2010. Prior to his arrival in Spartanburg, Peter worked with several theatre companies in Wilmington, NC, including City Stage, Tapestry Theatre Company, and at historic Thalian Hall. Peter relishes working with talented directors, actors, and other designers in order to solve the different challenges each production presents in order to be successful.

MADDIE TISDEL (EDUCATION COORDINATOR) is thrilled for her first season as Education Coordinator at the Spartanburg Youth Theatre! She graduated from Converse University in 2018 with a BA in musical theatre and history and has worked in the Upstate theatre community ever since. You can see her onstage at The Warehouse Theatre and South Carolina Children's Theatre, as well as directing for SYT and SLT. She would like to thank her family, friends, and Austin and Al for helping her make her dreams possible.

JAY E. COFFMAN (Executive Artistic Director) most recently directed this season's *The Sound of Music* and last season's *Bright Star* and *RENT*. Other favorite directorial credits include *Sister Act*, *We Will Rock You*, *Sh-Boom!*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. In past seasons he has occasionally appeared on stage in *Legally Blonde* (Dad/Winthrop), *Blithe Spirit* (Charles Condomine) and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some!)*. A native of Southern California and former senior instructor of German at USC Upstate, Jay is in his 16th year as SLT's executive artistic director.

JENNY BONNER (Media Coordinator) is a visual artist, as well as an instructor in studio art and art history at USC Upstate. She holds an MFA in painting & sculpture from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a BFA in painting and drawing from The Ohio State University. This summer, her artists collective, *Banded Wilderness*, permanently installed their site-specific sculpture-with-sound in Raleigh, NC, after it was acquired by the City. (You can check it out at Baileywick Park if you are ever in the area!) Jenny enjoys making props and other adornments for the shows at SLT when the opportunities arise and is so excited to see what this season holds! Outside of work, she enjoys running trails, and spending time with her pup, Dame Maggie Smith.

OLIVER ELLIS (Scene Shop Foreman) has worked for the Little and Youth Theatre since 2021. He has worked with local companies such as Ballet Spartanburg and GLOW and graduated from Converse College in 2020. Oliver is glad to be given the opportunity to grow in theatre here and looks forward to creating art this season.

EMILY ROSE WATTS (Scene Shop Assistant) is excited to be joining SLT/SYT for another season. Starting as an intern at SLT in 2021, she is glad to be given the opportunity to grow with this season's productions. Emily Rose graduated from Converse University with a BA in theatre. Previously she has worked with GLOW Lyric Theatre, Ballet Spartanburg, and the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

HAILEY ELLIS (SYT INTERN) is a senior at Converse University studying interior design and arts administration. Hailey is interested in learning more about theatre and theatre design. She plans to graduate this May and pursue a career in Commercial Interior Design in Charlotte.



PHILIP CRAWFORD

Your talents amaze us. Continue to believe in everything you do. Always remember... "Just be yourself, there is no one better." Break a leg! We love you to the moon and back.

Mom, Dad, Asa, Mimi, Gampa, Nate, Abby, Owen, Penelope, Nana and Papa

Break a LEG

ADDYSON CROCKER

We are so proud of you and love you bunches! We'll always be your biggest fans!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Clayton



Break a LEG



MACKENZIE FLOWERS

We are all so proud of you and can't wait to see the great things you'll accomplish! Go do what you do best... shine like the star you are!!

We love you! Break a leg!

Mommy, Johnathon, Noah, and Levi

Break a LEG

JOSIAH GREENE

We are excited to see your gifts continue to grow. Keep striving toward your purpose!

Love, Mom, Dad, Jeremiah, Syreigna, Mema, Lee Papa & Johnny Papa



Break a LEG

STRONG JONES

Hakuna Matata! We are so proud of you. Keep doing the things you love and following your heart! We love you!

Mom, Dad & Tru



Break a LEG



JAKE LEONARD

The BEST is yet to be! I love you more!

MOM

Break a LEG

JANE MARTIN

Let the world hear you roar, baby girl.
We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Cora, & Evie



Break a LEG



COOKIE MILLER

I'm so proud of you! I can't wait to see you perform in this beautiful show. I love you!!

Love, Mom

Break a LEG



MADISON MILLER

You are going to be amazing!!
Wishing you all the best
Love,
Mom and Dad

Break a LEG

JAIDEN NOLAN

We are so proud of you and
everything you've accomplished.
Keep doing your best. We love you!
Love, Mom, Dad & JoJo



Break a LEG



ADRI PATTERSON

Adri, we are so proud of you and
love seeing you shine! It is our
joy to watch you on stage.

Love,
Your Family

Break a LEG

ALEX RICHARDS

Alex, as always, your family is beyond
proud of you. Outside of your
comfort zone is where you will find your
strength!! Continue reaching for the
stars, pushing, and striving for greatness
and remember you are AWESOME!!!!

Love Mom, Dad and Family



Break a LEG

CORIN THOMAS

May your performance
be as amazing as you are!

We love you!

Love, Dad, Mom & Camryn



Break a LEG



Break a LEG

AUSTYN TURLEY

We are so proud of you
and hope that you have
a "roaring" performance!!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Kelli, and Ethan

JONATHAN WILSON

Show them how
"Prepared" you are!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Break a LEG



Break a LEG

JONATHAN WILSON

We know they will
"Roar" your praise!

Love,
Grandma

JONATHAN WILSON

I take "Pride"
in your performance!

Love,
Grandmommy



Break a LEG

JAELEAH WISE

Break-a-leg Superstar!
May your talent shine as
bright as your smile!
Enjoy every moment onstage!!

Love you!
Mom and Family



Break a LEG



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SHE KILLS MONSTERS

By Qui Nguyen
Nov. 9-11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 12, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

LAST NIGHT & THE NIGHT BEFORE

By Donnette Lavinia Grays
Feb. 22-24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

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Words and Music by
Michael John LaChiusa
April 11-13, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
April 14, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

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