



# *My Wonderful Birthday Suit*

**by Gloria Bond Clunie**

*Directed by Amelia Lumpkin*

**May 5 - 21, 2023**  
Sensory-Friendly May 20, 2023

# MY WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY SUIT

by Gloria Bond Clunie

Directed by Amelia Lumpkin

Scenic Design by Sonya Drum

Costume Design by Betty Adorno

Music Composed by Matthew Hager

Lighting Design by Cory Arnold

Props Design by Elizabeth Iaquina-Karsten

Sound Design by Mindtracs

Stage Managed by Desire Lora

*My Wonderful Birthday Suit* was commissioned by  
and received its World Premiere Production at  
Chicago Children's Theatre January 2018  
~Jacqueline Russell, Artistic Director

**ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS  
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This program is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on  
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*My Wonderful Birthday Suit* is supported by the United Arts Council of  
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# Note from the Director

Hey kiddos and their young at heart companions,

Please enjoy a trip to The Other Side of the Rainbow in this production of Gloria Bond Clunie's *My Wonderful Birthday Suit*. This fantasyland may remind you of home. This play is particularly interesting to me because of the ways it takes me back into memory---the freedom and excitement of childhood, friendship as a strong flavor of love, and many birthday parties as the lone Black girl guest.

Oobladee's party planning adventure brings us moments of joyful imagination alongside grounded life lessons. Gloria Bond Clunie's light touch can reach any audience member. What does being a best friend look like in action? What can we teach ourselves? How can we help others get to know us intimately? Each week in production, I've thought of a new friendship alongside this show.

Ultimately, none of us are too grown or too evolved to get lost in a laugh or taken over by a rhythm. The youngest among us are free to express the beautiful colors and shapes they see around them in human or animal form.

Thank you for joining us in today's audience! You're officially invited to join the party. Afterwards, try a "Thinking Tree" moment of meditation alone or with a neighbor to see if any new connections are made. Consider extending a plus one to invite your best friend to see a future performance.

Have a Wonderful Show!

Amelia

# Cast & Production Team

## Cast

Oobladee

**Abby Patrick**

Oobladah

**Elim Lee**

Shebopshebe

**Skylar Skinner**

Bobo

**Samantha Kiser**

## Production Team

Director

**Amelia Lumpkin**

Scenic Designer

**Sonya Drum**

Costume Designer

**Betty Adorno**

Production Manager/  
Technical Director

**Dennis R. Berfield**

Assistant Technical Director

**Ali Wood**

Music Composer

**Matthew Hager**

Lighting Designer

**Cory Arnold**

Props Designer

**Elizabeth Iaquinta-Karsten**

Sound Designer

**Mindtracs**

Stage Manager

**Desire Lora**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Alex Lewis**

# Cast Biographies



**SAMANTHA KISER** (Bobo) graduated at eighteen from NC State University with her Bachelor's degree in English and Honors. She has been active in the theatre community for over twelve years. Samantha has performed before with Raleigh Little Theatre in their production of *Pride and Prejudice* ('22) as Lydia Bennet and Lady Catherine! Her most recent production was *The Cherry Orchard* with Burning Coal Theatre. You can read more about Samantha at [samanthakiser.wordpress.com](http://samanthakiser.wordpress.com) or @samanthalily.kiser on Instagram!



**ELIM LEE** (Oobladah) is so excited to be back within the world of children's theatre! After growing up within the Springer Theatre Academy in Georgia and having fun with student-run theatre at Wesleyan in Connecticut, it is so wonderful to find a place in the Triangle to continue. Elim is also an aspiring children's book author-illustrator, and you can find her book *Needle and the Too Big World* out in the lobby!



**ABBY PATRICK** (Oobladee) is so excited to be back on stage after a three year hiatus! She holds a BFA in musical theatre from William Peace University and currently takes classes at Back to One Studio. Some favorite credits include Beth March in *Little Women*, Burke/Mrs. Wyatt in *An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe*, Diana Barry in *Anne of Green Gables*, and Helen in *Carrie: The Musical*. You can follow her on Instagram! @abbylisepatrick



**SKYLAR SKINNER** (Shebopshebe) is excited to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut! She acted in high school and college (her favorite credits are OG in *Men on Boats* and Georgia in *The Exonerated*) and is excited to be on stage for the first time since 2019.

# Production Team

## Biographies

**BETTY ADORNO** (Costume Designer) was born in Long Island, New York and moved to Raleigh over 20 years ago. She spent 13 years working at Raleigh Creative Costumes. Betty also spends her time creating cosplays and costumes for performances. She was also associate costume designer with Raleigh Little Theatre for *In the Heights*.

**CORY ARNOLD** (Lighting Designer) has a B.A. in Music Business from Millikin University. Recent Lighting Design credits include *All the Way, Every Brilliant Thing*, *Black Nativity in Concert*, *Enemy of the People*, *Man of La Mancha* (The Justice Theater Project), *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Inherit the Wind* (Theatre in the Park), *SOFAR Sounds Raleigh/Durham*. Cory often uses his skills as an electrician at DPAC, Duke Energy Center, PNC and other regional venues. He is excited to be back with Raleigh Little Theatre and thanks those who continue to support him in his pursuit of the arts.

**DENNIS R. BERFIELD** (Production Manager) is from South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He received degrees in Theater and Communication Studies at the Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters of Fine Arts in Scenic Design and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dennis has worked at various regional and off-Broadway theaters as a Scenic Artist, Carpenter, Master Carpenter, Scenic Designer, Assistant Technical Director, Scenic Coordinator. After working professionally for a number of years, Dennis became an adjunct professor at Millikin University in Decatur, IL and went on to become the Technical Director at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

**MATTHEW HAGER** (Music Composer) is excited to be working with RLT for the first time! As a composer, Matthew has written for NC Theatre, Justice Theater Project, Seed Art Share, and Aggregate Theatre Company. He is currently composing a new musical, *AWAY HOME*, for *Honest Pint*. As an actor, Matthew has performed locally with *Burning Coal* (company member), NC Theatre, NC Symphony, and Aggregate Theatre Company, among others. In 2017, Matthew founded Aggregate with the mission of developing a younger theatergoing audience in the Triangle (Follow on FB & IG: @aggregatetheatre).

**ELIZABETH IAQUINTA-KARSTEN** (Props Designer) has worked as the prop designer for the Raleigh Little Theatre productions of *The Mountaintop*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *Blood Done Sign My Name* and *The Hounds of Baskerville*. She is particularly excited to be part of the production team for *My Wonderful Birthday Suit* because it will be the first play her granddaughter goes to see.

**ALEX LEWIS** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back at RLT! Most recent work is in Best Of Enemies with Justice Theatre Project. He wants to thank the entire cast & crew for all the talent, support and dedication. For more about him follow him on IG: [introjourney](#)

**DESIRE LORA** (Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of William Peace University where she got her BFA in Musical Theatre. She has been in several productions at her school including Antigone in Antigone: Burial of Thebes, Fairy GodMother in Cinderella, and Hannah Ferguson in The Spitfire Grill. She's been seen previously at RLT in In the Heights and will be making her stage manager debut with RLT with this wonderful show!

**AMELIA LUMPKIN** (Director) is an experienced director with a passion for theatre that began as a child in classes and audiences at Raleigh Little Theatre and was formalized through her study of Theatre at Davidson College. She has directed locally with Burning Coal Theatre, Agape Theatre Project, The Justice Theater Project, and Odyssey Stage. Amelia values community, anti-racism, and celebrating children, all of which relate to this playful story of friendship. She believes theatre has the power to educate, bring people together, and transform. She extends a special thank you to her lifetime theatre teachers, family, and local theatre friends for their support.

**JENNY MITCHELL** (Costume Shop Manager) is a Costume Designer here at Raleigh Little Theatre. She is thankful to have such a dedicated group of volunteers and co-workers to work with on this, and every, production. Her most recent credits include: Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook, The Mountaintop, A Number, Beehive, and Blood Wedding.

**HEATHER J. STRICKLAND** (Raleigh Little Theatre's Executive Director/Interim Artistic Director) has been in her role since June 2020. Heather has over 15 years of experience in developing organizational strategy and branding, fundraising, and cultivating engagement for nonprofit and public service organizations. She has been involved with RLT since 2005, starting as a volunteer and stepping into the roles of director, teaching artist, and board member over time. Heather has also worked as a director, actor, and dance/fight choreographer. She is a member of ArtEquity's first cohort of National Board Leaders and has a degree in Theatre Arts and Communications from Flagler College.

**ALI WOOD** (Assistant Technical Director) could be found both on-stage and backstage when there was a show the whole time she was growing up. From skits that her grandfather wrote for their church to the local community theatre, she was always involved and loved the art. In 2017, she graduated college with a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts with a focus in Lighting. Her most recent endeavor was working as an Entertainment Stage Technician for Walt Disney World at Hollywood Studios in Orlando, FL. During her time here, she hopes to continue spreading her love and joy of Theatre with everyone she meets.



# Season Crews & Volunteers

## 2022-2023 Auditions Crew Members

Amy Blackwell  
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Clare Vestal  
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Paula Scicluna  
Phyllis Wellman  
Shanell Milani  
Steve Bradford  
Tony Landavazo

## 2022-2023 Auditions Crew Coordinator

Marie Berry

## 2022-2023 Costume Shop Crew Members

Adalia Schafrath-Craig  
Alyssa Capps  
Ameer Tohamy  
Ann Haigler  
Athena Tzathas  
Barbara Biggs  
Barbara Liemgruber  
Bonita McPherren  
Brooklyn Franke  
Brooklyn Smith  
Catherine Lambe  
Cindy Henson  
Cindy Marshburn  
Cynthia Ramos  
Danielle M. Welch  
Debbie Sherrod  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Fiona Crow

Janice Freeman  
Jess Mack  
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Kathy Mauney  
Laurel Drobits  
Linda Wellnitz  
Lisa Flores-Wolfert  
Lisabeth McGinnis  
Liz Houde  
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Pamela Swanstrom  
Patty Ball  
Rebecca Woltz  
Ruth Berry  
Sam Frigerio  
Sharon Pope  
Susan Kirley  
Viviana Straniero

## 2022-2023 Deck Crew Members

Alex McLellan  
Barbara Witherwax  
Bri Flynn  
Catherine Lambe  
Dustin Bowles  
Jamie Marlow  
Jeff Hooper  
Jessica Richardson  
Kara Wiley  
Lila Smit

Lilly Wolverton  
Michael Jernigan  
Miranda Twombly  
Nancy Sheehan  
Rebecca Leonard  
Rebecca Samuel  
Shelly Johnston  
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Will Lukas

## 2022-2023 Dresser Crew Supervisor

Lindsey Wyatt

## 2022-2023 Dresser Crew Members

Alexa Greene  
Aliana Ramos  
Amber Schnur  
Amy Blackwell  
Ann Haigler  
Beth Castle  
Brooke Sandoval  
Claire Huene  
Erin Zanders  
Fiona Crow  
Kirsten Lora

Laura D'Onofrio  
Lindsey Wyatt  
Lisa LeVert  
Miranda Twombly  
Rachel Eckert  
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## 2022-2023 Lighting Crew Members

Alana Williamson  
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Anakin Ducheneaux  
Barbara Corbin  
Barbara Witherwax  
Bri Flynn  
Carol Machuca  
Claire Huene  
Darby Madewell  
Dustin Bowles

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Michael Jernigan  
Jessica Richardson  
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Bri Flynn  
Catherine Lambe  
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Kara Wiley

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Maggie Brown  
Nancy Sheehan  
Sam Howard  
Thommie O'Neal  
Will Lukas

## 2022-2023 Scene Shop Crew Members

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Cameron Hoyt  
Charlie Hart  
Dan Eckert  
Donald Gillett  
Don Miller  
Dustin Bowles  
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Louisamari Santiago  
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Saphire Cook  
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Tori Harden  
William Sanders

## 2022-2023 Sound Crew Members

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Anakin Ducheneaux  
Barbara Corbin  
Catherine Lambe  
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Darylene Hecht  
Ellary Hileman  
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For more information about volunteering at RLT,  
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