



RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE

SOMETHING
Rotten!



August 23 - September 15

BOOK BY KAREY KIRKPATRICK AND JOHN O'FARRELL

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY WAYNE KIRKPATRICK AND KAREY KIRKPATRICK

CONCEIVED BY KAREY KIRKPATRICK AND WAYNE KIRKPATRICK



RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE

presents

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

Book by

Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell

Music and Lyrics by

Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick

Conceived by

Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick

Arrangements by

Glen Kelly

Orchestrations by Larry Hochman

Vocal Arrangements by Phil Reno

Additional Orchestrations by Bruce Coughlin and Phil Reno

Originally produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum

Broadway Global Ventures CMC Mastro/Goodman Jerry
& Ronald Frankel Morris Berchard Kyodo Tokyo Inc. Wendy

Federman Barbara Freitag LAMS Productions Winkler/
DeSimone Timothy Laczynski Dan Markley Harris/Karmazin
Jam Theatricals Robert Greenblatt and Jujamcyn Theaters

Developed in association with

the 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle, WA, David Armstrong,
Executive Producer and Artistic Director, Bernadine Griffin,
Managing Director and Bill Berry, Producing Artistic Director

Directed by Susannah Hough

Music Directed by McCrae Hardy

Choreographed by Freddie-Lee Heath

Scenic Design by Dennis R. Berfield

Costume Design by Jenny Mitchell

Lighting Design by Paul Marsland

Sound Design by Mindtracs

Stage Management by Elaine Petrone

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

**Is presented through special arrangement with Music
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This program is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.



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Something Rotten! is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



Special thanks to Eric Sciotto, David Watts for website maintenance, Zoe Wright for program assistance, and Kristina Brunelle for workshop facilitation with the cast and production team.

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ALL LOCAL ALL MORNING



JEFF HOGAN

RENEE CHOU

ELIZABETH GARDNER

WRAL NEWS
MORNINGS

4:30-7:00AM

WRAL NEWS
FOX 50

7:00-10:00AM

Welcome to the Renaissance!

We are so happy you have joined us for this monstrous, irreverent, and raucous production. It's an all-singing, all-dancing love letter to musical theatre, performed with lung capacity to spare by twenty-three artists from all over the Triangle area. Under the direction of Susannah Hough, returning to RLT after a long time away, with choreography by Freddie Lee Heath and music direction by McCrae Hardy, this show is sure to get your toes tapping.

If anything you see on stage piques your interest, visit our website at RaleighLittleTheatre.org to find out how you can join us. RLT's purpose is to give theatre and theatre-curious members of our community a place to act, paint, sew, hammer, drill, sing, bedazzle, learn and share from each other, all for the happiness of creating something special. As an educational institution first, we satisfy our mission if we use theatre to bring people together to better understand what it means to live on our unique spinning sphere in the middle of space.

Here's a little story. I remember talking to Casey Nicholaw, original director and choreographer of *Something Rotten!* on Broadway about why he choreographed so many tap numbers into this show (and most of his shows, actually). He said it was simply because he could. That's what's great about theatre. Anything is possible because storytelling ideas come from everywhere and anyone. Limitless. Pretty cool, right?

Lastly, thank you to every volunteer who makes RLT what it is. And to our small but mighty staff who are here to support those volunteers. Come and see what we are all about; I'd love to see you around the theatre.

Bottoms up!



Michele

RLT Executive Producer



(l-r Peyton Rose, Michele Weathers, RLT Board Member Marquita Robertson)

P.S. Next up...Our inaugural Theatre for the Very Young production of [All Smiles](#) in the Gaddy-Goodwin Theatre, September 4-15.

Letter from the Director

Welcome to *Something Rotten!* This show is an effervescent imagining of Renaissance theatre, filled with humor, heart, and lots of irreverence. Set in 1595, it follows the Bottom brothers, Nick (actor/producer, played by Erik Agle) and Nigel (playwright, played by Michael Sheehy), as they struggle to find success in the shadow of William Shakespeare, the rockstar of the era.

Throughout the Bottom brothers' search for success, one thing becomes apparent: commercial success, personal success, and artistic success are not all the same thing. Nick has to learn that making money is not the only measure of success; Nigel has already figured out that meaningful, creative work can also feed the soul. Though Nick is attempting to steal from Shakespeare, and Shakespeare keeps trying to steal from Nigel, it's "the system" that has rotted them. It's the same misguided mindset among artists today that success in the theatre only means success on Broadway. Successful theatre lives right here in communities like ours.

Which gets me thinking: How does the commercially competitive world of Shakespeare's London and professional theatre in 2024 compare to a community theatre such as Raleigh Little Theatre? Community theatre is exactly that: by and for the community at large.

The exciting part of directing *Something Rotten!* has been bringing together artists with varying skill sets to create this story. Choreographer Freddie-Lee Heath, music director McCrae Hardy, and I assembled a company of dancers, singers, and actors, some of whom are appearing on a theatrical stage for the first time, while some have been performing for decades. What a beautiful thing! We have created a new language together to communicate and share our talents, engaging each other in storytelling, being vulnerable and daring to try new things, all for our love of live performance and the audience who sees it. That is the mission of Raleigh Little Theatre - to enrich, educate, entertain and engage.

Something Rotten! is a meta-musical, a show that acknowledges in various ways that it's a show, referencing not just the story but the actual performance of it. One thing I love about this show is its title, from the famous Hamlet quote, "There's something rotten in the state of Denmark." It also describes Nick Bottom's scheme (and Shakespeare's too). But it also refers to the hilariously bad musical-within-the-musical Omelette. Both Omelette and the eggs (the actors) are rotten. The other part I love is that its take on Shakespeare offers up the coolest meta device. An actor (Brian Westbrook) plays Shakespeare, who disguises himself as Toby, who then "plays" Uncle Scar. It's dizzying!

There is a whole smorgasbord of wild, smart, meta-theatrical stuff - as well as all the quotes from Shakespeare's prolific writings - in *Something Rotten!* The higher the stakes for these characters as the story moves forward, the more serious their desperation, and the wackier the comedy gets. *Something Rotten!* is a love letter to theatre and it is a joy to bring it to you. Thank you for supporting live theatre in the Triangle!

Susannah Hough
Director

Connecting People With the Arts

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission nurtures creativity and enriches our community by championing the arts in Raleigh:

- Partnering with local cultural organizations
- Supporting arts programming
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- El fomento de la inversión en el arte
- La presentación de exposiciones artísticas, arte público y eventos especiales

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Order of Songs

ACT I

Overture

Welcome to the Renaissance	Minstrel, Brother Jeremiah, Portia, Ensemble
God, I Hate Shakespeare	Nick, Nigel, Nick's Troupe
Right Hand Man	Bea, Nick, Nigel
God, I Hate Shakespeare (Reprise)	Nick
A Musical	Nick, Nostradamus, Ensemble
The Black Death	Nick's Troupe
I Love the Way	Portia, Nigel
Will Power	Shakespeare, Ensemble
Bottom's Gonna Be On Top	Nick, Bea, Nigel, Lord Clapham, Shakespeare, Ensemble

- There will be a 15-minute intermission following Act I -

ACT II

Welcome to the Renaissance (Reprise)	Minstrel
Hard to Be the Bard	Shakespeare, Bard Boys
It's Eggs	Nick, Nick's Troupe
We See the Light	Portia, Nigel, Brother Jeremiah, Nick, Ensemble
Nigel's Theme	Nigel
To Thine Own Self Be True	Nigel, Nick, Nick's Troupe
Right Hand Man (Reprise)	Bea
Something Rotten	Nick, Nick's Troupe
Make an Omelette	Nick, Nostradamus, Three Chefs, Ensemble
To Thine Own Self (Reprise)	Nick, Nigel
Welcome to America	Nick, Nigel, Bea, Portia, Nick's Troupe

Cast & Production Team

Cast

Nick Bottom

Nigel Bottom

William Shakespeare

Nostradamus

Bea

Portia

Lord Clapham/Shylock

Brother Jeremiah

Troupe

Minstrel

Ensemble

Dance Captain

Erik Agle

Michael Sheehy

Brian Westbrook

David Henderson

Abby Rockwell Savage

Shelby Barros

Brian Hollingsworth

Ron Lopez Jr.

William Taylor

Chris Inhulsen

Marshall Moller

Nehiel Ortiz

David Mills

Wade Newhouse

Benjamin David Tarlton

Brian Hollingsworth

Chris Inhulsen

David Mills

Emmy Slaton

Grace Lumpkin

Katherine Pearce

Laura Tutterow

Lisa Pfuhl

Marshall Moller

Nehiel Ortiz

Sophia Bell

Stephon Sample

Thomas Matrejek

Wade Newhouse

William Taylor

Katherine Pearce

Production Team

Director	Susannah Hough
Music Director	McCrae Hardy
Choreographer	Freddie-Lee Heath
Stage Manager	Elaine Petrone
Production Manager/ Technical Director and Scenic Designer	Dennis R. Berfield
Costume Designer	Jenny Mitchell
Lighting Designer	Paul Marsland
Sound Designer	John Maruca
Intimacy/Fight Director	Montgomery Davis
Scenic Painter	Shannon Clark
Props Designer	Callie Hammond
Cutter/Draper	Denise Schumaker
Assistant Technical Director	Ali Wood
Assistant Director	Nathalie Ray
Assistant Stage Managers	Ali Wood Nikki Hinnant
Sound Engineer	Michael Santangelo
Costume Shop Interns	Helen Remington Kaitlyn Watkins Klovyr Jade Petra Crowe

Program Notes

Sure, "All the world's a stage," but this particular stage is set to about 430 years ago. If you're wondering what the Renaissance is, what this Shakespeare guy is really about, or how any of this relates to musical theatre today, then let's set the scene.

The Renaissance was a time of looking back and reflecting on the past. The very word "Renaissance," coined in the 16th century by writer Giorgio Vasari, literally means "rebirth." It was a fitting name: the Renaissance was a movement of art, literature, and learning that borrowed from and revitalized the ideas of Ancient Greek and Roman thinkers and artists, moving away from the Middle Ages and to newer and better things. And naturally, this movement spread to the theatres, bringing a new wave of interest to the stage.

Enter Shakespeare, one of the most well-known figures to come out of Renaissance theatre (or even theatre in general). An English playwright, actor, and poet, Shakespeare is most famous for his plays: *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, and many more. Even today, these works are the subjects of hundreds of films, classes, literature, and of course, stage performances. In Shakespeare's plays, we see the ideas of the Renaissance reflected: plays' themes of political powers reflected conflict on the throne, themes of inheritance reflected the power of money and the barriers that it presented to Elizabethans, and so on. Many of the concerns that existed then - political powers, classism, war, money, gender, and more - are still relevant today, and looking back gives us a fuller understanding of these issues over time and how attitudes have evolved.

Contemporary attitudes and Shakespeare's writing come together in a unique way in *Something Rotten!*, where the Kirkpatrick brothers posed the question: What if the theatre scene of Shakespeare's London looked like 1930s Broadway?

Their answer was the story of Nick and Nigel Bottom, who try to revolutionize theatre by bringing the very first musical to the stage.

The roots of the musical go back to Ancient Greece, where music would sometimes accompany plays, and to opera, which emphasized telling stories through song, yet the modern musical did not emerge until the 19th century. But in *Something Rotten!*, the phenomenon of the Broadway musical comes crashing into the Elizabethan theatre scene. Dance breaks, tap shoes, kick lines, and all the conventions of the modern musical converge with the world of the Renaissance. In a time when women weren't allowed to act on stage, and theatres were dependent on funding from wealthy patrons, the Kirkpatricks explore how antiquated ideas from the past converge with the Renaissance's hope for progress, and how from the Renaissance, we can see signs of progress in the world today.

Zoe Wright
RLT Summer Intern

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Photos by Chris Janaro (l-r) El Pueblo, CAM, NC Museum of History, Town of Zebulon, African American Cultural Festival, Justice Theater Project, IBMA, Hum Sub, WCPSS Pieces of Gold

Cast Biographies



ERIK AGLE (Nick Bottom) is honored to be making his Raleigh Little Theatre debut! Most recently seen locally as Joseph in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* at Cary Players. Other favorite credits include the National Tour of *South Pacific* (based on the Lincoln Center production), *Les Miserables* at Pioneer Theatre Company, and *110 in the Shade* (starring Audra McDonald) at Hale Center Theatre. BFA Music Dance Theatre from BYU. Much love to his beautiful wife, Darlene, and four children for supporting him in his time away from home to do this show.



SHELBY BARROS (Portia) is thrilled to be a part of this star-studded cast! She graduated from Millikin University in Illinois with a BFA in Musical Theatre. She is an elementary music teacher and her 700 kiddos are her entire world! In the Triangle, she was recently seen as Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre), Susan in *[Title of Show]* (TheatreFEST 2023), Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Cary Players), and Antonia in *Man of La Mancha* (Justice Theatre Project). Regional theatre credits include *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* (Maurice) and *Mamma Mia*. Other favorites are *Oklahoma* (Laurey), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Millie), *9 to 5* (Violet), and many more. She hopes you enjoy this hilarious show!



SOPHIA ARAMINTA BELL (Ensemble) is a North Carolina native and is excited to join Raleigh Little Theatre for *Something Rotten!* She is currently an Elite Company Member with Renner Dance Company in Chapel Hill, attending multiple competitions and conventions around the East Coast. She's also received training from the Institute for American Musical Theater (IAMT) in New York City. Most recent performances include: *Matilda*, *Bright Star*, and *Frozen*. She would like to thank all of her family, friends, teachers, and mentors! Instagram: @sophia.araminta



DAVID HENDERSON (Nostradamus) most recently appeared as Chorus in *Henry V* and James T in *Barbecue*. Other roles include Joey in *A Steady Rain*, Richard in *Richard III*, Salter in *A Number*, Charlotte in *I Am My Own Wife*, Tracy in *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, Lombardi in *Lombardi*, Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, Iago in *Othello*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Bobby in *Company*. For 30 years, he has had the honor of playing Jacob Marley in TIP's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*. Thanks to all of you that support the arts! Drink Deep!



BRIAN HOLLINGSWORTH (Lord Clapham/Shylock/ Ensemble) was last seen on the Sutton stage playing the dual roles of Wickham & Collins in *Pride & Prejudice*, and is doubly-excited to continue his multi-part trend with *Something Rotten!* Other credits include *Spamalot* (ensemble), *Hairspray* (Corny Collins), *Bus Stop* (Bo Decker), and *The Crucible* (Willard), all at Raleigh Little Theatre. He sends love and thanks to: Grey (who has heard these songs and lines so many times he could be an understudy), Mom (for coming to nearly every show), and family (no, this show is not “like *The Crucible*”).



CHRIS INHULSEN (Troupe/Ensemble) is glad to be back on the Raleigh Little Theatre stage! Select RLT credits: *Runaways* (A.J.), *Jingle Bell Jukebox* (Fred), *Tempest* (Gonzalo), *West Side Story* in Concert (A-Rab), RLT *DIVAS!* (3X), Favorite roles outside RLT: *Big River* (Huck Finn) Temple Theatre, *Bright Star* (Jimmy Ray) TheatreFest, *Sweet Charity* (Daddy) Meredith College, *Brigadoon* (Charlie Dalrymple) Cary Players and many more! Thank you family and friends. Whatever you find yourself doing, keep the Arts part of your life!



RON LOPEZ JR. (Brother Jeremiah) is thrilled to be part of this production of *Something Rotten!* He was last seen on the RLT stage in *DIVAS!* Alas, he did not win, but he had a fabulous time! A graduate of The Boston Conservatory, Ron has performed in numerous shows across the country. Some favorite credits include John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins* and Man in the Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Ron has also portrayed both Franz and Rodger in *The Producers*. Ron would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support.



GRACE LUMPKIN (Ensemble) is so excited to perform her first ever show at Raleigh Little Theatre! After growing up in Durham, she moved to the Midwest where she got her BFA in Acting at Illinois Wesleyan University. Her most recent roles include Joyce/Will in *Stranger Sings! The Parody Musical* and Connie in *The Effect*. Grace is especially thankful for her family who has always supported her passion for performance. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Cast Biographies



THOMAS MATREJEK (Ensemble) is thrilled to be working on this egg-tastic singing and dancing spectacle at Raleigh Little Theatre. He is excited for his first ever tap-dancing performance and 3rd onstage appearance at RLT (*Curtains; In The Heights*). Thomas is a Software Developer during the day, but spends most of his time designing sounds and lights in community theatre (most recently as Sound Designer for RLT's *Looking for Roberto Clemente*). Other onstage credits include Ensemble (*Miscast*, Meredith), Ensemble (*Sweet Charity*, Meredith), George (*Carrie*, Meredith) and Plankton (*Spongebob*, NRACT). Big shout out to my Mom, family and Ms. Trish for all of their support.



DAVID MILLS (Troupe/Ensemble) is a junior at Cardinal Gibbons High School. At Gibbons, he has been in the following productions: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Bright Star*, *Rumors*, and *Matilda*. He was also in *A Christmas Carol* at Theater In The Park. This is his 4th show at Raleigh Little Theatre (*Junie B. Jones*, *Seussical*, *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook*). David loves to perform, sing, and dance. David would like to thank his family and friends for their support.



MARSHALL MOLLER (Troupe/Ensemble) is so pumped to be on Raleigh Little Theatre's stage for the first time, especially with his friend Thomas Matrejek. Previously, he was Brad Majors in NRACT's production of *The Rocky Horror Show* as well as The Stripper in *Southern Baptist Sissies*. He was in the ensemble for Meredith College's *Sweet Charity* and for Cary Players, he appeared as Perchik in *Fiddler on The Roof*. Previous credits also include *City of Angels* (Stine), *Legally Blonde* (Warner), and *Les Mis* (Marius).



WADE NEWHOUSE (Minstrel/Ensemble) is excited to return to Raleigh Little Theatre after appearing as Chris Belling in last year's production of *Curtains*. Other favorite roles include Preacher in *Southern Baptists Sissies* (North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre), Bolingbroke in *Richard II* (Sweet Tea Shakespeare), Felix in *The Odd Couple* (Forest Moon), Sidney Bruhl in *Deathtrap* (Forest Moon and NCSU TheatreFest), and *Macbeth* (Bare Theatre and Sweet Tea). He is a Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Arts at William Peace University, where his directing credits include *Death by Design*, *Zombie Prom*, *Assassins*, *Julius Caesar*, *Noises Off*, and *Dracula*.



NEHIEL ORTIZ (Troupe/Ensemble) is excited to join Raleigh Little Theatre in his first ever musical theatre experience following an extended break from performing as a soloist. When he isn't on stage, you can find him sharing his vocal abilities on social media or working as an IT professional. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support and encouragement in sharing his talent in the local musical theatre scene.



KATHERINE PEARCE (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is beyond thrilled to be making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut in *Something Rotten!* She feels so privileged to have the opportunity to work with this fantastic cast and creative team. Previous favorite roles include ensemble in *Young Frankenstein*, Medium Alison in *Fun Home*, and SpongeBob SquarePants in *The SpongeBob Musical*, all at NRACT, and Anna in *Spring Awakening* at UNC Charlotte. Biggest thanks to Paul, mom, and Wo for their support. Katherine performs in loving memory of her dad, who would have especially loved this one.



LISA PFUHL (Ensemble) is ecstatic about joining *Something Rotten!* with Raleigh Little Theatre. She has performed in several theaters across the state. Favorite drama roles: Margaret Lord in *Philadelphia Story* and Penny in *You Can't Take It with You*. Favorite dance roles include: Fastrada in *Pippin*, Mona in *Chicago*, LuLu in *Cabaret*, ensemble in *Spamalot*, among a few. Her mother had no idea that all of those dance classes would lead to an adult pastime. Thanks to Fred for dealing with the quiet nights at home.



STEPHON SAMPLE (Ensemble) is excited to join his 3rd production on the Raleigh Little Theatre stage! You may have seen him in *Curtains* (Brick/Det O'Farrell), or *Cinderella 39* (Teacher). Or, even more recently in Justice Theatre Project's production of *Cabaret* (Herman). As a graduate from UNC Chapel Hill with his Bachelor's in Dramatic Arts, Stephon is so grateful to have fully jumped into the theatre community in the Raleigh area. Big thanks to everyone in the cast and production who has supported me, especially since I jumped in with zero tap experience (Look ma, I can tap now!). Now please enjoy A Musical!

Cast Biographies



ABBY ROCKWELL SAVAGE (Bea) is delighted to be making her debut with Raleigh Little Theatre. Favorite credits include *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles) and *Lend me a Tenor* (Maria) with UCF Summerstage, *Aliens with Extraordinary Skills* (Lupita) with Ego Actus Theatre, and *Glassheart* (Aiofe) with Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. She earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from University of Central Florida and then trained with the London Academy of Dramatic Art. Abounding thanks to RLT, Chris, family and friends for their loving support.



MICHAEL SHEEHY (Nigel Bottom) is thrilled to be back on stage alongside this hilarious cast. Michael has been seen in theatres across the country. Favorite credits include: *Les Misérables* (Orlando Shakespeare), *42nd Street* (Lexington Theatre Co.), *Evening 1910* (Axis Theatre Co.), *RENT* (Harbor Lights Theatre Co.), *Forever Plaid* (Maples Repertory Theatre), and many others. Degree in Musical Theatre from the University of Kentucky. Public Policy Degree from Duke University. Love to Abbey, Bluebell, and my angel Mae Mobley.



EMMY SLATON (Ensemble) is excited to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut in *Something Rotten!* A Raleigh native, Emmy has performed with Spiritual Twist Productions in Garner for 15 years, and her previous roles include Meg Giry in *The Phantom of the Opera* and the Ghost of Christmas Past in *Scrooge*. When not on stage, Emmy can often be found reading Austen, frolicking in nature, or working on a creative project.



BENJAMIN TARLTON (Ensemble) (He/Him/His) is excited to return to the Raleigh Little Theatre stage. Benjamin studied Dramatic Art with a minor in Music at UNC Chapel Hill. Additionally, Benjamin is an actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. Previous credits include Jeff Bowen in *Title of Show*, Hanschen in *Spring Awakening*, and Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown*.



WILLIAM TAYLOR (Robin/Ensemble) is an Appalachian State graduate with a degree in Music Education. He was in 6 Teens on Stage productions from 2013-2018, and this is his first Raleigh Little Theatre show as an actor since then. He is now the General Music teacher at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School, where he is the musical director for their shows. He would like to thank his family, friends, and all the cast and crew for the amazing support! Break a leg!



LAURA TUTTEROW (Ensemble) is making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut after a 7 year hiatus from the stage! Her favorite past shows include *A Chorus Line* (Cassie), *Mary Poppins* (Annie), *The Addams Family* (Flapper Ancestor), and *Crazy for You* (Chorus) performed at Lincoln Center. During the day Laura is a CPA at a public accounting firm. She would like to thank her fiancé John and coworkers for being so supportive throughout this show.



BRIAN WESTBROOK (William Shakespeare) is very happy to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre for *Something Rotten!* Brian has been performing and directing in our area's vibrant theatre community for more than fifteen years. Previous credits for RLT include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (The D'ysquith Family), *Sweeney Todd* (Beadle Bamford), *Spamalot* (Lancelot), and *Hands on a Hardbody* (Director & Choreographer).



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Production Team

Biographies

DENNIS R. BERFIELD (Production Manager/Technical Director) 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, and 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.

SHANNON CLARK (Scenic Painter) is excited to return to Raleigh Little Theatre this season, and often has help from his good friend and fellow artist Hope Hammond. Shannon is grateful for the support of his family and friends and is thrilled to be designing again after retiring from the world of Theater to become a full-time parent. Shannon managed Berger Hall at Cary Academy for 17 years before retiring.

MONTGOMERY DAVIS (Fight and Intimacy Director) is excited to be joining Raleigh Little Theatre for the first time and to be returning to the Triangle theatre community after 10 years traveling, performing, and choreographing works across the globe. They are an award winning choreographer based in both Atlanta and the Raleigh area. They have advanced training and titles with the Society of American Fight Directors, Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, and The International Stuntsman Association. They are also currently pursuing their Masters at NCSU. Previous productions and other works can be found on their website montgomerydavis.com. They are thankful for the continued support from their partner, pets, and community.

MEGAN FARRELL (Marketing Manager) joined the Raleigh Little Theatre team in August 2019. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from North Carolina State University (Go Wolfpack!). Megan grew up a theater kid and loves getting to "play" on the admin side of the performing arts now as an adult. When she's not at the theatre, Megan is likely daydreaming about Halloween or watching Disney movies with her tiny best friend Emmie.

CALLIE HAMMOND (Props Designer) After graduating from Davidson College, Callie taught high school and worked in theatres across North Carolina for twenty-five years. In 2018 Callie moved to LA. She worked backstage for several theatres before she wrote and directed *Miracle* for CEED-TV and stage managed their *Christmas Spectacular*. Unfortunately, Covid happened, so she's back in Raleigh where she recently stage managed *Ona* for OdysseyStage and designed props for *Chicken and Biscuits* at North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre.

Production Team

Biographies

McCRAE HARDY (Music Director) has had a very long career in musical theatre, both locally and nationally. He was the founding music director for the North Carolina Theatre and held that position for 22 years and 90 shows. He was also Music Director/Orchestrator for the outdoor drama *Unto These Hills* (1977-2005) and for *The Lost Colony* (2013-2019). He has been Music Director for *A Musical Christmas Carol* for Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera since 1993 (with a brief hiatus to raise his three small children). He was Music Director/Arranger for *Patsy*, a tribute to Patsy Cline which enjoyed long runs in Branson, MO, Toronto, and toured nationally. He contributed orchestrations to The North Carolina Symphony for various artists including The Red Clay Ramblers, Tift Merritt, et al. He has also conducted the NC Symphony on several occasions. McCrae received The Raleigh Medal of Arts "for extraordinary achievement in the Arts" in 1995. He lives in Garner with his partner, Eric and their three children, numerous cats, three ferrets - and a new puppy. "Thanks to Michele Weathers for the offer to dip my toe in the Raleigh Little Theatre pond."

FREDDIE-LEE HEATH (Choreographer) is thrilled to return to Raleigh Little Theatre, where he has worked on over 30 shows including: *Nine*, *City of Angels*, *Cinderella*, *Full Monty*, *Altar Boys*, *Carousel*. Recently retired as Director of Arts Education for Wake County Schools, he spends his time traveling across North Carolina choreographing and conducting master classes. His past accolades include National Dance Educator of the Year, Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Medal of Arts-City of Raleigh and Hall of Fame for Wake County Schools. Endless thanks to Susannah and McCrae-it's been fun! Love to Mark!

NIKKI HINNANT (Assistant Stage Manager) is a talented individual whose talents span sound, stage, and company management contributing to local and regional productions. As an alumna of UNC-Greensboro with a graduate degree from Howard University, Nikki is also a dedicated employee of the Department of Health & Human Services. Nikki also has a passion for travel and enjoys teaching English as a second language. Nikki is embarking on an exciting new chapter by working on her debut production at Raleigh Little Theatre.

TERRA HODGE (Director of Education) (she/her) is the Director of Education at Raleigh Little Theatre. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Education from North Carolina Central University and her Master of Arts degree in Media Arts from Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. Prior to joining RLT, Terra was the Theatre Arts teacher for the past 13 years at Culbreth Middle School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She was named the 2017 - 2018 Culbreth Teacher of the Year and was named an Honor Teacher for Chapel Hill - Carrboro City Schools. Terra has worked as a teaching artist, actor, and director with many local theatre companies. She is the director of Agape Theatre Project's production of *Crowns* that is featured at this year's International Black Theatre Festival in Winston Salem, NC.

SUSANNAH HOUGH (Director) is happy to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre after a long time. She is a veteran of film, TV, commercials, audio dramas, and numerous stage companies, such as IVRT (Los Angeles), Theatre in the Park, NCSU TheatreFest, North Carolina Theatre, Justice Theatre Project and others. She is Co-Artistic Director of Honest Pint Theatre Co. in Raleigh where she has directed the acclaimed productions of *Grand Horizons*, *The Night Alive*, *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, and *A Steady Rain*, among others. Training: BFA in Drama from the University of California, The American Conservatory Theater. www.susannahough.com; honestpinttheatre.org; IG @firstrefusal. Thank you for supporting live theatre in the Triangle! Many thanks to the incredible staff of Raleigh Little Theatre who make this ship sail!

KAREY KIRKPATRICK (Author) began his career as a screen and songwriter for Disney Animation where he penned *The Rescuers Down Under* and *James and the Giant Peach*. With more than a dozen feature films produced, screenplay credits include *Chicken Run* (Golden Globe nominee for Outstanding Comedy), *Charlotte's Web*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *The Spiderwick Chronicles* and *Over the Hedge*, which he also co-directed. He directed the Paramount Pictures film *Imagine That* starring Eddie Murphy and co-produced, wrote and performed on the film's soundtrack. He recently directed the Warner Brothers animated musical *SMALLFOOT* for which he also co-wrote the screenplay and the songs (with brother Wayne). He has won a number of Tony, Oscar and Grammy awards and that number is zero. Other credits: husband of Nada, father of Sami, Maia and Finn.

WAYNE KIRKPATRICK (Author) is the Grammy Award-winning songwriter of *Change the World* by Eric Clapton (Song of the Year). Top 10 singles include *Every Heartbeat*, *Good for Me* (Amy Grant); *Wrapped Up in You* (Garth Brooks); *Boondocks*, *Bring It on Home*, *Little White Church* (Little Big Town); *Place in This World* (Michael W. Smith). He is a multi-formatted songwriter with songs recorded by Bonnie Raitt, Faith Hill, Joe Cocker, Gabe Dixon, Trisha Yearwood, Babyface and Peter Frampton, among others. His songs have been featured in TV shows (*Grey's Anatomy*, *True Blood*, *Hart of Dixie*) as well as feature films (*Almost Famous*, *Phenomenon*, *Smallfoot*). Wayne lives in Nashville with his wife Fran and was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame for 2018. Favorite productions: Kourtney, Shelby and Carson.

PAUL MARSLAND (Lighting Designer) has been Lighting Designer, Head Electrician, Lighting Equipment Supplier, or Production Manager for almost 35 years for many performing arts groups in the Triangle area. He's glad to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre where he designed two of his career-favorite shows.

Production Team

Biographies

JOHN MARUCA (Sound Designer) is a sound designer and audio engineer from Raleigh North Carolina. He has been working with Raleigh Little Theatre for over 10 years and is very excited to continue work with this new season.

JENNY MITCHELL (Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager) is the Costume Shop Manager 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: *Kinky Boots*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Curtains*, *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook*, *The Mountaintop*, and *Beehive*.

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide. MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia).

JOHN O'FARRELL (Author) is one of the UK's best known comic authors and script writers. Best-selling novels include *The Best a Man Can Get*, *May Contain Nuts* and *The Man Who Forgot His Wife*. Non-fiction includes *An Utterly Impartial History of Britain*, the political memoir *Things Can Only Get Better* and its recent sequel plus three collections of his satirical columns for *The Guardian* newspaper. O'Farrell's books have been translated into thirty languages and adapted for BBC Radio and television. Winner, British Comedy Award. Previously a writer (and later panelist) on BBC's *Have I Got News For You* and lead writer on ten series of ITV's *Spitting Image*. Currently writing the sequel to *Chicken Run*, and adapting one of his novels for Sony International Pictures.

ELAINE PETRONE (Stage Manager) is excited to have this opportunity to work with such a talented company to bring *Something Rotten!* to life. She has stage managed for Raleigh Little Theatre since 2007 for a wide variety of shows, including Shakespearean classics like *MacBeth*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Richard III*; and musicals including *Pippin* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* to name a few. Love and thanks to David and Alyssa for their patience while I help make "A Musical."

NATHALIE RAY (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be a part of her first Raleigh Little Theatre production. Past productions include directing Burning Coal's Summer Theatre Conservatory's *Titus Andronicus* and *Matilda: The Musical*, *KidsWrite! 2022* and *Oakwood Cemetery Plays 2022*, *Pride and Prejudice* (Stageworks Theater), *Freaky Friday: The Musical* (Gallery Players), *Hands On A Hardbody* (Gallery Players), *A Little Princess* (Sweet Tea Shakespeare), *The Aliens* (eggNYMPH Artist Collective), *Lysistrata* (Studio One) and assistant directing *Emma* (Sweet Tea Shakespeare). She enjoys workshoping new plays and has directed staged readings at Burning Coal and the Fuquay Varina Arts Center. She studied drama at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a focus in directing. She is also an actor, teaching artist, arts administrator, and member of the band The Off Topics.

DENISE SCHUMAKER (Cutter/Draper) has designed costumes, props and sets for theatre, dance, opera, and tours, plus film and television, for over 35 years. She was honored with an Emmy® nomination in 2010. Recent work includes *Sister Wives Tell All* on TLC, the film *Bloodspawn* (2024), *Dance Nation* for Women's Theatre Festival, *Death By Design* for William Peace University, *The Little Mermaid Jr* for STAR (Special Theatre Arts of Raleigh), *Grand Horizons* for Honest Pint Theatre Company, and *Henry V* for Theatre in the Park.

MICHELE WEATHERS (Executive Producer) joined RLT in November 2023. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director and Senior Advisor at Carolina Ballet from 2017-2023. Other leadership experience includes positions at PlayMakers Repertory Company (UNC-Chapel Hill), Barrington Stage Company (Pittsfield, MA) and North Carolina Theatre (Raleigh, NC). NY credits include: *In the Heights*, *High Fidelity*, *Orson's Shadow*, and *Red Light Winter*. In 2019, she was recognized with TBJ's Women in Business Leadership Award and, in 2024, she was a member of the inaugural group of award winners for Raleigh Magazine's Impact 50. Professional development includes DEI training with artEquity. Michele is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women and is a Theatre grant panelist for the NEA. Her daughter, Peyton Rose, is a rising senior at Enloe High School.

ALI WOOD (Assistant Technical Director/ Assistant Stage Manager) could be found both on-stage and backstage when there was a show while 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. Her most recent endeavor was working as an Entertainment Stage Technician for Walt Disney World. She hopes to continue spreading her love and joy of Theatre with everyone she meets.

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Alyssa Sanders

Ann Haigler

Barbara Corbin

Betsy Boyd

Bonita McPherrin

Catherine Lambe

Chantal Brown

Cynthia Ramos

Dillon Shorter

Eleanor Silver

Emerson Bulluck

Hannah Hudyncia

Heather Meadows

James Shaw

Jaye Bullock

Jay Mack

Jeremy Clos

Julija Kolenceva

Kai Arroyo

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Leanne Richbourg

Liz Houde

Mallory Koerner

Mallory Schultz

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Anakin Ducheneaux

Bri Flynn

Doc Price

Essie Horne

Heidi Fleming

Michael Parrill

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Ryan Jones

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Sonya Fleming

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Beth Castle

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Essie Horne

Jennifer Dai

Kendra Drylie

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