

THE NEW

MUSICAL!

SEPTEMBER 12 - 28

MUSIC BY JEFF THOMSON

BOOK & LYRICS BY ROBIN ROTHSTEIN

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presents



MUSIC BY JEFF THOMSON BOOK & LYRICS BY ROBIN ROTHSTEIN

Directed and Choreographed by Amy Pridgen & Bryan Pridgen
Music Direction by Steve Bradford
Scenic Design by Dennis R. Berfield
Costume Design by Denise Schumaker
Lighting Design by Julianna Babcock
Sound Design by Craig Johnson
Props Design by Doc Price
Stage Management by Jada B. Smith

Originally produced at New World Stages in New York City by Ava, Max & Peter Cane with Robin Rothstein & Kevin Duda.

Mad Libs® Live! is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

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This program is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.



Mad Libs® Live! is supported by United Arts Wake County, as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.





SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Whispering Oaks Farm and Event Venue and David Watts for website maintenance.



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WELCOME TO RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE!

Dear Pickles,

We are <u>ridiculously</u> excited to welcome you to *Mad Libs® Live!* Get ready for a <u>sparkly</u> night filled with belly laughs, <u>flying chickens</u>, and maybe even a dancing walrus.

This show works a little like the game you know and love: sometimes the story makes sense, sometimes it makes *absolutely no sense*, and that's exactly the point.

Here's how you can help:

- Keep your elbows open.
- 2. Don't be afraid to burp loudly.
- 3. Share your best kazoo honk whenever the mood strikes.

Most of all, remember: there's no "right" way to enjoy the show - just the goofy way.

Thank you for being here, thank you for being spectacularly silly, and let's make this a show of giggles we'll never forget!

With hugs and hiccups,

Michele

Producing Artistic Director



Peyton Rose and me being spectacularly silly!

CAST

Merrily

Natalie Rose

Virtuosa

Sophia Araminta Bell

Geyser

Tyler Yeatts

Gogo

Mason Miller

Ryan Seablank/Dylan

Colin J. Christensen

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors and Choreographers

Amy Pridgen Bryan Pridgen

Music Director

Steve Bradford

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Designer/Production Manager/Technical Director Dennis R. Berfield

Costume Designer/Associate Costume Shop Manager

Denise Schumaker

Lighting Designer

Julianna Babcock

Sound Designer

Craig Johnson

Props Designer

Doc Price

Stage Manager

Jada B. Smith

Costume Shop Manager

Jenny Mitchell

Assistant Technical Director

Ali Wood

Assistant Stage Manager

Alvssa Wise

Team Dynamics Strategist

Kristina Brunelle

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



SOPHIA ARAMINTA BELL (Virtuosa) is thrilled to be a part of *Mad Libs Live!* This is her second RLT role after *Something Rotten!* A Cardinal Gibbons senior and Elite Company member with Renner Dance, she trained at IAMT in NYC and was recognized nationally for tap at NYCDA. Recent roles include *A Christmas Carol* (Laura), *Shrek* (Dragon), and *Matilda* (Beatrix). She would like to thank her family, friends, Mr. Ferg, and all who support the arts!



COLIN J. CHRISTENSEN (Ryan Seablank/ Dylan) is in his first production with Raleigh Little Theatre! He has previously performed in numerous black box productions during his high school career back in his hometown in Louisiana at Lakeshore High School. When not performing onstage, Colin can be found practicing his own writing, working diligently on a new and upcoming fantasy novel! He is currently enrolled at NC State, pursuing a degree in Creative Writing, all thanks to the love and support from family and friends.

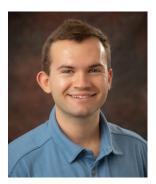


MASON MILLER (Gogo) is very excited to be working with Raleigh Little Theatre on Mad Libs Live! This show marks his second with Raleigh Little Theatre, his first role being Nate in Nate the Great. Mason loves working with his cast and crew mates and has had such a fun time forming the character of the most awesome athlete in the world: Gogo! He hopes you enjoy the show and have a lovely evening!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



NATALIE ROSE (Merrily) is making her Raleigh Little Theatre acting debut after many wonderful experiences behind the scenes. However, she's appeared onstage in countless other community theater productions and acted throughout most of her academic career. Holding a B.A. in Dramatic Arts, she is now a preschool music teacher. She thanks her loved ones for their support and the all the children who inspire "Ms. Natalie" to believe in herself.



TYLER YEATTS (Geyser) is so excited to be part of Mad Libs Live! Past roles include Roo (Winnie the Pooh), Jacob Marley (A Christmas Carol), The Grinch (How the Grinch Stole Christmas), Asher (The Giver), Tartuffe (Moliere's Tartuffe), and Pig-Pen (A Charlie Brown Christmas). He graduated from Campbell University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Studies: Broadcasting and Public Relations. When not on stage, he enjoys playing the guitar and making songs, spending time with his family, and relaxing with a great sitcom or movie.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

AMY PRIDGEN (Co-Director and Co-Choreographer) is thrilled to be returning to Raleigh Little Theatre for this super fun production! She is currently the director of the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre and has done lots of neat artsy stuff all over the Triangle since she moved here eleven years ago. Favorite RLT directing credits include Curtains and The Revolutionists. Favorite RLT acting credits include This Wonderful Life, Pippin, One Man Two Guvnors, and Stickfly. Big love to Bryan, Alice, and Mae. Thanks to the totally cool cast and crew of the show. Y'all are the ______ to my _____.

BRYAN PRIDGEN (Co-Director and Co-Choreographer) is an NC native, holds a B.A. in Acting from Greensboro College and is a co-founder of Savannah Stage Company. He also earned an MAT from NCSU and teaches Kindergarten at Fuller Magnet Elementary. Directing credits include: *The Music Man* (William Peace University), *The Spitfire Grill* (Barton College), *The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs* (Raleigh Little Theatre), and *The Turn of the Screw* (Savannah Stage Company). Hope you all (verb) the (noun)!

STEVE BRADFORD (Music Director) joins the RLT family after a long and varied adventure in music for the theatre. From the pit or onstage, Steve has been director of dozens of shows from *Gypsy* to *The Music Man* to *Camelot* and *Into the Woods*. He was co-founder of *Broadway's Best*, a Winston-Salem theatre providing a springboard for students from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Retired from Wachovia Bank, he now calls Raleigh home.

DENNIS R. BERFIELD (Scenic Designer/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.



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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

DENISE SCHUMAKER (Costume Designer/Associate Costume Shop Manager) has designed <u>porcupines</u>, <u>backpacks</u> and prison cells for theatre, dance, opera, and tours, plus film, television, and MrBeast, for over 35 <u>minutes</u>. She was <u>stupefied</u> with an Emmy® nomination in 2010. Recent <u>confusion</u> includes *Polyfamory* on TLC, the <u>economical</u> film *Bloodspawn* (2024), Pippin for Theatre in the <u>Parking Lot</u>, *The* <u>Compulsion</u> of Figaro for NC Opera, *The Sketchy Flute* for Elon Opera Workshop, and RLT's Theatre For the <u>Exceptionally Inquisitive</u> productions of *All Smiles* and *The Wheels on the Bus*.

JULIANNA BABCOCK (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be making her RLT debut as lighting designer of this production. While she is majoring in business at William Peace University, she has worked as a lighting designer for over 6 shows to date, her most recent works being *Being Chaka* and *Learning Curves* at Burning Coal Theatre. She has loved working with the production team and cast and is very thankful for the amazing experience with RLT.

CRAIG JOHNSON (Sound Designer) is excited to be back at RLT. Earlier he served as Sound designer for *Cinderella* and Qlab Conductor for *Something Rotten*. During the day, he is a project manager in the pharmaceutical industry, but at night he can often be found at NRACT (and more recently also at RLT!) either on stage (*Southern Baptist Sissies, Brother Chaffey/Houston*), running tracks (*Everybody's Talking about Jamie; Fun Home*), or music directing (*Big Fish*). A huge THANK YOU and I LOVE YOU to his husband and other half of 30 years – Shawn!

DOC PRICE (Props Designer) is pleased to serve as the Props Designer for *Mad Libs Live!* He has contributed to several productions recently, including Props Designing for *Akeelah and the Bee* and as Assistant Stage Manager for *Doubt*. A long time member of the Central Florida theatre community, Doc's involvement began in childhood and continued through college. He studied at Daytona State College and gained hands-on experience as a member of the run crew and scene shop assistant at Seaside Music Theatre in Daytona Beach. After a long hiatus, he is excited to return to the theatre, helping bring compelling stories to life.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

JADA B. SMITH (Stage Manager) is excited to be the production stage manager for *Mad Libs Live!* at Raleigh Little Theatre. This is her second show at RLT, after Assistant Stage Managing *The Color Purple*. When she's not in the theater, Jada loves to crochet and read books. She hopes you enjoy this wild and wacky show!

ALYSSA WISE (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to return to RLT as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Mad Libs Live!* Alyssa recently graduated from Elon University with a BFA in Acting and Arts Administration, as well as a minor in Business Administration. Some of her recent credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Gertrude), *The Inferior Sex* (Shirley Chisholm), and *Antigone* (Eurydice/Creon). She thanks her Mom, Granny, her dog Song, and her Elon University family for everything. @alyssawise_

KRISTINA BRUNELLE (Team Dynamics Strategist) is an Organizational Strategist and the founder of Momaging Made Easy, where she equips parents - especially moms - with the tools and confidence to guide their young actors through the often-overwhelming world of auditions, self-tapes, and casting. Her professional work focuses on helping leaders and teams thrive through purposeful conversations that build trust and connection, while her entrepreneurial work helps families navigate the business side of show business without losing their sanity. By night, she's an avid theatre-goer (likely in a row near you), and always grateful for the chance to support incredible casts and crews. Here's to a spectacular performance - on with the show! MomagingMadeEasy.com

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RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

MICHELE WEATHERS (Producing Artistic Director) (she/her/hers) Previously: Executive Director and Senior Executive Advisor at Carolina Ballet (2017-2023), Managing Director at PlayMakers Repertory Company (2014-2016), Managing Director at Barrington Stage Company (Pittsfield, MA) and North Carolina Theatre (1991-2004). NYC 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. DEI workshops: artEquity and Emerging Equity. Michele is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women. Her daughter, Peyton Rose, is a freshman at Michigan State University. Meredith College grad. She is incredibly proud of RLT's place in the community.

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 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 was featured at the 2024 International Black Theatre Festival in Winston Salem, NC.

JENNY MITCHELL (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: *Something Rotten!*, *Kinky Boots, Trouble in Mind, Curtains*, and *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook*.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

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. 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 cheering on the Dodgers, watching horror movies, or going on adventures with her tiny best friend Emmie.

MERCEDES RUIZ (Box Office & Front of House Supervisor) is thrilled to be a new addition to the RLT team! A long time attendee, Mercedes grew up seeing Cinderella annually with her grandfather. She later made her RLT debut as a Teacher's Assistant and actress, with credits including A Year with Frog and Toad, Charlotte's Web, The Tempest, and Into the Woods. A graduate of Elon University with a degree in Drama and Arts Administration, Mercedes has worked in patron services, education, development, and finance, with a focus on making theatre accessible to diverse audiences.

ALI WOOD (Assistant Technical Director) could be found both on-stage and backstage while she was growing up. From skits her grandfather wrote for church to performing at the local community theatre, Ali was always involved. However, during her college years, she found lighting and swapped over to the dark side. After graduating, Ali worked as an Entertainment Stage Technician for Walt Disney World and now she continues her career as the Assistant Technical Director here at Raleigh Little Theatre where she hopes to continue spreading the love and joy of theatre with everyone she meets.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

CANDACE SPENCER (Education Programs Specialist) is an accomplished African American theatre professional passionate about nurturing young artists. She holds a BA in Theatre from Greensboro College and an MFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Louisville. Candace has expanded her artistic perspective through a six-month study abroad program in London, where she explored theatre and dance. While pursuing her MFA, Candace gained four years of experience teaching introductory acting classes to undergraduates, and she developed on-camera acting skills during her undergraduate studies. She is skilled in drama instruction, on-stage and on-camera acting, and stage directing. Her dedication to youth development is not only evident in her teaching experience, but also in her work with young artists at a summer camp in Los Angeles, California. Candace's diverse training, experience, and love for theatre make her an invaluable asset to the RLT Education team.

EMMA CLEMENTS (Jack Hall Scholar) is a local director and producer. They are very excited to return to the RLT team for the 2025-2026 season as the Jack Hall Scholar! They recently graduated from UNC-CH, where they held several student leadership and production roles, including Executive Director of Production for Pauper Players' 2022-2023 season. Emma also serves as the Artistic Director for Boy With Box Theatre Company, a new small-budget theatre company in Chapel Hill.

MAGGIE GINA (Administrative Intern) is currently a junior at NC State majoring in Business Administration with a double minor in arts entrepreneurship and music performance. Since she first picked up a trumpet at age 9, she was immediately drawn to a world of music and creativity, helping her realize she needed the arts to be forever a part of her life! Maggie is very excited to be a part of RLT and is grateful for the chance to gain real-world experience in marketing/administration and see first hand what it means to bring a performance to life. When not in the theater, Maggie can usually be found spending time with friends and family, studying, or in and out of practice rooms.



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Raleigh Little Theatre productions are driven by our volunteers. There are countless ways you can get involved, with any skills (or desire to learn new skills) you have, including:

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Help our Teaching Artists with classes in our education programs and camps for youth!

Costume Shop

Learn or use your existing skills in sewing, costume repair, hat/mask making, wig styling, and more to help make our productions' costumes!

Scene Shop

You can I Learn or use your existing skills in construction, fly rigging, painting, and more to help bring our sets to life.

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Put a character and a show on its feet!
Visit RaleighLittleTheatre.org/Auditions for upcoming opportunities.

Lighting, Sound, Props, Deck, and Dresser Crews

Create "theatre magic" by working to make all of the elements of a show happen on time!

Assistant Stage Manager

Relay information between the Stage Manager, actors, and backstage crews in real time so each show runs smoothly and efficiently.

Assistant Director

Help the director make the show happen!

Usher/Concessions

Welcome audience members, scan tickets, sell concessions, and help patrons find their playbills and seats.

House Manager

Coordinate and manage all of the moving pieces of audience arrival, departure, and experience during their time at the theatre.



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For more information about volunteering at RLT, contact Cari by email at Cari@RaleighLittleTheatre.org or via telephone at 919-821-4579 x 232.

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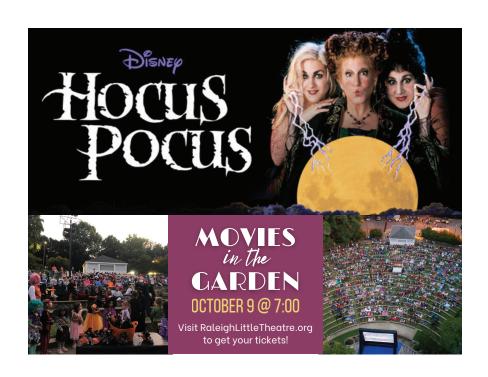
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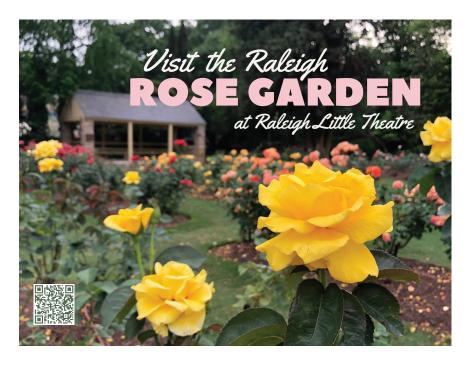
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