



**THEATRE
FOR THE
VERY YOUNG**

The

Wheels on



the

BUS

By Ernie Nolan

August 27 - September 7



TAKE A BOW!




RLT'S 2025/2026 THEATRE CLASSES FOR YOUTH & ADULTS ARE NOW ENROLLING!

Join Raleigh Little Theatre for a brand new season of classes beginning this fall! New & returning favorites include offerings for youth ages 2-18 plus four six-week sessions of theatre classes for adults.

Visit our website for more information!

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RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE
EDUCATION



RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE

presents

The
Wheels on
the **BUS**

by **Ernie Nolan**

Produced by special arrangement
with Plays for New Audiences

Directed by Flora Bare

Scenic and Sound Design by Dennis R. Berfield

Costume Design by Elspeth McClanahan

Props Design by Denise Schumaker

Stage Management by Ashley Stepnoski

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

**THE VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER VIDEO OR
AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

The Wheels on the Bus 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.



@RLT1936

Special thanks to Alison Lawrence for music recording, Whispering Oaks Farm and Event Venue, and David Watts for website maintenance.



WELCOME TO RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE!

All Aboard!

Welcome to Raleigh Little Theatre's production of The Wheels on the Bus! We're delighted you and your family are joining us for this very special journey. For many of our youngest riders, today may be your very first theatre adventure - and we couldn't be happier that you're having it with us!

Theatre for the Very Young is an immersive, sensory experience that supports important developmental milestones for ages 0-5 in ways such as language and communication skills; social emotional development; collaboration and it boosts imagination and creativity. All in a fun, exploratory environment.

This performance is designed especially for little ones: full of music, laughter, and playful surprises at every stop. On this bus, clapping, singing, and wiggling are always welcome - the more joy we share, the more fun we have everywhere!

Thank you for choosing to hop aboard with us. Together, we'll roll along to our favorite destination: **Imagination Station.**

Enjoy the ride and we hope to see you back again soon!

With gratitude,



Michele Weathers,
Producing Artistic Director



CAST

Bert the Bus Driver

Kevin Aponte

Betty/Townspeople

Amelia Lumpkin

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

Flora Bare

Scenic Designer/ Production Manager/ Technical Director

Dennis R. Berfield

Costume Designer

Elsbeth McClanahan

Props Designer/ Associate Costume Shop Manager

Denise Schumaker

Stage Manager

Ashley Stepnoski

Costume Shop Manager

Jenny Mitchell

Assistant Technical Director

Ali Wood

Art Everywhere, by Everyone



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

- Partnering with local arts and cultural nonprofits
- Supporting public art and artists
- Producing exhibitions, arts programs and special events
- Advocating for arts investments

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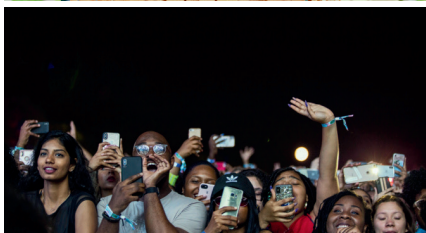
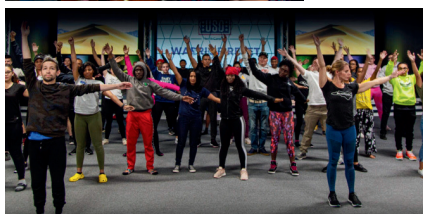
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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



KEVIN APONTE (*Bert the Bus Driver*)

is jazzed to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre. Previous roles include Larry the Lobster in *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical* (NRACT), *Jesus in Hands on a Hardbody* (Raleigh Little Theatre), and serving as Assistant Director for *The Grown Ups* (NRACT). Kevin is also a staff writer for Chatham Life and Style, serving as a theatre critic and beat writer for the Triangle area.



AMELIA LUMPKIN (*Betty/Townspeople*)

is thrilled to perform in *The Wheels on the Bus* with Raleigh Little Theatre. A former elementary school teacher with five years in the classroom, she has also worked in RLT's education department and with The Justice Theater Project's summer programs. Passionate about creating theatre that welcomes the youngest audiences and their families, Amelia invites you to also explore

RLT's TVY offerings this season and Small Is All Productions' *Circle and Square*, in which she plays Square, at the NCMA on October 11.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



FLORA BARE (*Director*) is a director, choreographer, performer, and educator specializing in devised physical theatre and collaborative storytelling. She holds an MFA from the London International School of Performing Arts and is a nine-time All-American gymnast and Cal Aggie Hall of Fame inductee. She has taught at institutions including the National Centre for Circus Arts, DePaul University, UNC Chapel Hill, and currently teaches at NC State. Flora received the 2024 Kennedy

Center American College Theater Festival Citizen Artist Award for her direction in collaboration with the company Nouveau Sud. Upcoming projects include directing *Dracula* with The Justice Theatre Project and choreographing *Once* at Burning Coal Theatre. See her work at florabarearts.com.



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.

KRISTINA BRUNELLE is an Organizational Strategist, guiding leaders and teams to greater effectiveness through purposeful discussions and activities that foster strong interpersonal connections. Her work helps smooth out the challenges that often arise in fast-paced, high-stakes environments while cultivating a stronger sense of community. By night, she's an avid theatre-goer, likely seated in a row near you. Grateful for this incredible cast and crew—here's to a truly spectacular performance. On with the show! IG: kbbrunelle

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



ELSPETH MCCLANAHAN (*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to be combining her two worlds, theatre and preschool for another RLT TVY production. For 18 years she has found joy in teaching littles. Some of her RLT Credits include *All Smiles*, *Elephant and Piggie*, *Nate the Great*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, *What We're Up Against*, *Into the Woods*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Misery*, *Doubt*, and *Our Town*. She received her bachelor's in Theatre from Radford University. Her design of Hair earned an

honorable mention for costume design at the 1999 Elliot Norton Awards in Boston. Some other credits include *The Book Club Play*, *Parade*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Grease*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *West Side Story*, and *42nd Street*, to name a few. Special thanks to her family for their support, the staff of RLT and Terri Schaffer.



DENISE SCHUMAKER (*Props Designer/ Associate Costume Shop Manager*) has designed costumes, props and sets for theatre, dance, opera, and tours, plus film, television, and MrBeast, for over 35 years. She was honored with an Emmy® nomination in 2010. Recent work includes *Polyfamy* on TLC, the horror film *Bloodspawn* (2024), *Pippin* for Theatre in the Park, *The Marriage of Figaro* for NC Opera, *The Magic Flute* for Elon Opera Workshop, and RLT's Theatre For the Very Young production of *All Smiles*.



ASHLEY STEPNOSKI (Stage Manager) is a passionate and versatile theater artist and has most recently stage managed with Applause! Youth Theatre, including productions of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Tuck Everlasting*, and *The Tempest*. Ashley is also an actor focusing on improvisation and physical comedy, in addition to playwriting, and has just directed her first show. She values mentoring young performers and believes in theater as a powerful tool for growth, creativity, and self-expression.

COSTUME SALE!

Saturday, October 4
9:00AM - 1:00PM



RaleighLittleTheatre.org/2025-Costume-Sale

Visit the Raleigh
ROSE GARDEN
at Raleigh Little Theatre



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to be a part of bringing *The Wheels on the Bus* to life - a magical story for our youngest theatergoers! As a parent of two junior bus drivers (and one who rides the big yellow bus to school), I understand how important a trusty driver is. This show celebrates imagination, adventure, and the joy of the ride. So hop on, sing along, and let the wheels begin!

With excitement,

Flora Bare



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*.



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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 (*and favorite Junior Bus Driver!*) 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.

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,

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

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.

CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

Raleigh Little Theatre is grateful to the following individuals that have invested their time, skills, and expertise as part of our community of volunteers between August 18, 2024 - August 18, 2025.

ASSISTANT DESIGNERS

Chantal Brown

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Dan Bain

Nathalie Ray

Lenore Clark

Metra Sheshbaradaran

Terri Crymes

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Nikki Hinnant

Jada Smith

Lauren Montana

Ali Wood

Doc Price

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Chantea England

Jordan Cofield

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Alyssa Capps

Andrea Axtell

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Lydia Aulisi

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Petra Crowe

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Laurel Drobits

Clancy Bradbury

Susanna Edwards

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Jaye Bullock

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CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

COSTUME SHOP CREW MEMBERS

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Troysha Giggans	Jill Pownall
Laurel Gregory	Cynthia Ramos
Shannon Hahn	Leanne Richbourg
Ann Haigler	Nayeli Rios-Guzman
Mohoganey Hollowell	Aleena Rivera
Gloria Hope	Sue Rudkin
Liz Houde	Alyssa Sanders
Hannah Hudyncia	Will Saponara
Gwen Johnson	Mallory Schultz
Mallory Koerner	James Shaw
Julija Kolenceva	Heather Shinpaugh
Maitreyee Kulkarni	Dillon Shorter
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Michaela Langley	Alex Stevens
Barbara Leimgruber	Pam Swanstrom
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Nmesomachim Ani	Ryan Jones
Jorge Betancourt	Amy Keyworth
Yusha Bey	Fox LaLeaf
Dustin Bowles	Sonya LaLeaf
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Jordan Cofield	Joey Lloyd
Chris Crowe	Zoe Luglan
Petra Crowe	Dani Miano
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Anakin Ducheneaux	Michael Parrill
Bri Flynn	Amy Plahuta
Samantha Gallup	Doc Price
Whitney Glomb	Katherine Shauger
Lea Goldstein	Metra Sheshbaradaran
Alex Gromo	Ray Siminski
Mohoganey Hollowell	Aubrey Thomas
Gloria Hope	Natasha Tyson
Essie Horne	Lara West
Victoria Kalendra-Frysta	Heidi York

DRESSER CREW SUPERVISORS

Beth Castle
Jennifer Dai
Lindsey Wyatt

CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Marie Berry	Savannah Johnson
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Beth Castle	Helen Remington
Petra Crowe	Dillon Shorter
Jennifer Dai	Jamie Smith
Kendra Drylie	Sophie Thibodeaux
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Yusha Bey	Joey Lloyd
Peri Boylan	Daniel McKay
Jordan Cofield	Amy Plahuta
Chris Crowe	Simone Pohlman
Shiri Dayan	Doc Price
Bri Flynn	Katherine Shauger
Samantha Gallup	Ray Siminski
Gloria Hope	Natasha Tyson
Ryan Jones	Zara Van Hemert
Fox LaLeaf	Lara West
Sonya LaLeaf	

**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:**

Teaching Assistant

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

Acting

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.



**RALEIGH
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CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Lilo Miles

Sree Sarkar

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Violet Hellmers

Gloria Hope

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Beth Kirby

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Michael Lewis

Lauren Montana

Tom Normanly

Veronica Passarelli

Amy Plahuta

Doc Price

Katherine Shauger

Bob Tomasulo

Lizzy Yingling

Heidi York

PROPS CREW SUPERVISORS

Catherine V. Lambe

CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

PROPS CREW MEMBERS

Sofia Albahrawy	Joss Kagarise
Chloe Allen	Victoria Kalendra-Frysta
Liz Armbruster	Catherine V. Lambe
Yusha Bey	Michaela Langly
Angelica Bridges	Zoe Luglan
Shruti Chavan	Amy Plahuta
Chris Crowe	Simone Pohlman
Petra Crowe	Doc Price
Michael Dunavan	Metra Sheshbaradaran
Whitney Glomb	Carolyn Shi
Kaylee Hahn	Michael Teleoglou
Violet Hellmers	Sophie Thibodeaux
Manika Hemmerich	Lara West
Mohoganey Hollowell	Ezra Zhang
Michael Jernigan	

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Brenda Bailey	Grey Burns	Sheridan Cooke
Yusha Bey	Joe Burns	Brett Cooper
Gary Bossert	Alanya Campbell	Joe Cordaro
Dustin Bowles	Victoria Centeno	Chris Crowe
Peri Boylan	Joseph Citta	Shiri Dayan

CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Kathleen Friedley	Marc Macenko	Raymond Siminski
Stephen Furs	Jay Mack	Sarah Sinawi
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Whitney Glomb	Samuel Mccraw	Rogelio Sullivan
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Samuel Hill	Livia Onkundi	Natasha Tyson
Mohoganey	David Oyler	Meoshia Wallace
Hollowell	Veronica Passarelli	Alephie White
Gloria Hope	Ann Perry	Wren Wick
Cindy Hughey	Elaine Petrone	Alana Williamson
Eric Jensen	Amy Plahuta	Lizzy Yingling
Cat Johnson	Nia Porter	Ezra Zhang
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	Jacob Presson	

CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Elizabeth Capps	Tom Normanly
Shruti Chavan	Veronica Passarelli
Saphire Cook	Amy Plahuta
Barbara Corbin	Karina Prut
Chris Crowe	Katherine Shauger
Sarah Doering	Micah Shelton
Chantea England	Metra Shesbaradaran
Lea Goldstein	Bob Tomasulo
Ryan Jones	Rachel Ward
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