

THE PRINCE STREET PLAYERS LTD.

PRODUCTION OF



DECEMBER 5 - 21

BASED ON THE FAIRY TALE BY CHARLES PERRAULT
ADAPTATION AND LYRICS BY JIM EILER
MUSIC BY JIM EILER AND JEANNE BARGY

DIRECTED BY RUTHIE MARTINEZ

Spotlights Proces

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Now, in addition to the incredible **art on stage**, enjoy the wealth of fine art on our lobby walls and in display cases.

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Eileen Hendren,
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landscapes, still lifes, abstracts, and much more from award-winning local talents.

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presents

THE PRINCE STREET PLAYERS LTD.

Production of



BASED ON THE FAIRY TALE BY CHARLES PERRAULT ADAPTATION AND LYRICS BY JIM EILER MUSIC BY JIM EILER AND JEANNE BARGY

CINDERELLA - PRINCE STREET PLAYERS VERSION is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Directed by Ruthie Martinez

Music Direction and Orchestrations by Christian L. Stahr
Choreographed by Jose Rondon Jr
Original Costume Design by Vicki Olson
Costume Design by Jenny Mitchell
Lighting Design by Darby E. Madewell

Sound Design by Craig Johnson and Jonathan Kilom
Props Design by Denise Schumaker
Stage Managed by Chris Acevedo
Animation for Cinderella Origin Story by Christy Kim



The more we all give, the more the community gives back.

At the Coastal Credit Union Foundation, we're proud of the fact that we've provided more than \$3 million in community grants. If you look around at the organizations doing great things for the people in this area, it's clear it's the best investment we've made.

Coastal is proud to support the Raleigh Little Theatre in their production of Cinderella.





Special thanks to our show sponsor, Coastal Credit Union.



Additional thanks to our media sponsor, WRAL.



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



Cinderella 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 to David Watts for website maintenance, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, Eddie Wright, and Chanté Thompson and Morgan Harris for the beautiful boutique.

Welcome to Raleigh Little Theatre

Each December when Cinderella returns to our stage, it brings with it a sense of comfort and connection that feels uniquely ours. Like a iovful little spell that reminds us compassion matters and kindness is never out of style, this holiday tradition celebrates 41 years of enchantment because of you and we are so grateful that we are part of vour holiday.

Your presence, your support, and your belief in community-built theatre are the heartbeats of this show and Raleigh Little Theatre. What happens onstage only works because of what happens offstage. You help create a place where young people discover confidence, where volunteers find purpose, and families return year after year keeping traditions alive. Without you, we wouldn't be us. Thank you for sharing this holiday moment with us.

I hope Cinderella brings a little sparkle to your season and serves as a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness can feel like magic.

For all the ways there are to be involved with us, I hope one finds you. Visit raleighlittletheatre.org or reach out to any member of our staff and Board to let us know how we can open doors for you.

Happy holidays,

Michele Weathers

Art Everywhere, by Everyone



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

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- Advocating for arts investments

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Arder of Songs

Cinderella is performed without an intermission.

The Kingdom of Good Queen Darling III

Many years ago on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Scene I: Town Square						
Prologue****Town Kids & Ensemble						
Scene II: A Magical Place						
Hi Diddle DeeFairy Godmother, Sugar, Spice						
Scene III: Stepmama's House, Morning of Christmas Eve						
What's to Become of Me?****Cinderella						
Get to WorkStepmama, Gertrude, Henrietta						
What's to Become of Me? RepriseCinderella						
Fairy Godmother, Sugar, Spice						
Scene IV: Castle Throne Room						
Queen Darling's Uptempo Lament****Queen Darling						
Pages, Sugar, Spice						
What's to Become of Me?****Prince Charming						
Scene V: Town Square						
Holly Berry*Town Kids & Ensemble						
Scene VI: Stepmama's House						
Knock, Knock, Knock Cinderella, Stepmama, Gertrude						
Henrietta, Sugar, Spice						
Invitation to the BallCinderella, Stepmama, Gertrude						
Henrietta, Sugar, Spice						

Arder of Tongs

Scene	VI: Stepmama's House	
	At The Ball	Stepmama, Gertrude, Henrietta
	What's to Become of Me? Se	cond RepriseCinderella
	Magic of the Moment**	Fairy Godmother
Scene	VII: The Garden	
	Pony Tales	Ponies
	Send Off	Fairy Godmother & Ensemble
Scene	VIII: Castle Ballroom	
	Cinderella's Entrance	Stepmama, Gertrude
		Henrietta, Ensemble
	Sneeze Polka	Gertrude, Henrietta, Ensemble
	Best of All****	Cinderella & Prince Charming
	Best of All Reprise	Prince Charming & Ensemble
Scene	IX: Castle Corridor	
Scene	X: Stepmama's House	
	FinaleFairy Go	dmother, Sugar, Spice, Ensemble
	Bows	Ensemble

Orchestrations by Christian L. Stahr.

^{*} Music by Martin Shaw, Lyrics by Haskell Fitz-Simons and Nancy Rich

^{**} Lyrics by Haskell Fitz-Simons; descant melody by Suann A. Strickland; orchestrations by F. Charles Anderson

^{***} Music by Julie A. Florin and Lyrics by Haskell Fitz-Simons

^{****} Music and Lyrics by Joanna Li

Letter from the Director

I'm a bit of a *Cinderella* veteran. I've done the Rodgers and Hammerstein version several times, most notably playing Cinderella in a community production and the Queen at North Carolina Theatre years ago. I've also directed and played Cinderella in different productions of *Into the Woods*. In these versions, we see Cinderella's familiar journey through different lenses. Sometimes as a hopeful dreamer who puts up with her circumstances, sometimes as someone who is indecisive and lets fate take her where it may.

In working on the script and as beautifully portrayed by this year's cast, I feel so encouraged by Raleigh Little Theatre's *Cinderella*. While having to endure the oppression of her stepmother and stepsisters, she knows there is more for her. She still takes comfort from the love of her father and the courage demonstrated by the heroines in her books. She develops her mind through reading and her studies. She finds friendship and kindness and doesn't give into bitterness or despair. Her kindness and ability to keep her heart open leads her to a new life. She keeps moving forward—our heroine is strong!

Our helpers and Fairy Godmother recognize that sometimes a good person just needs a little magic to help them realize their future. And all is wrapped up in the joy, happiness and hopefulness of the holiday season. What a wonderful way to tell this story! In our time, I hope that RLT's *Cinderella* gives you that same joy and encouragement. Make it a new or continuing holiday tradition!

Letter from the Director

I have been blessed to direct this show with such a talented and supportive team and cast. I want to thank Michele Weathers for giving me a second opportunity to direct the show this year. My sincere gratitude to music director Christian Stahr, stage manager Chris Acevedo, as well as ASMs Fox and Sonya LaLeaf for being such a great team and for all your support again this year. Thanks to all of the wonderful designers and staff at RLT who make the magic for Cinderella every year! Kudos and my appreciation to choreographer Jose Rondon Jr. for putting your energy and talent into the show this year and making it shine! Thank you for your support of RLT—enjoy Cinderella 41.

Shine on, Cinderella!

Ruthie Martinez





Cinderella

Adalynn Eller

Prince Charming I Paul Dargan

Queen Darling III

Alysse Miller

Stepmama **Amy Kemp**

Henrietta Zaneh Hassouneh

> Gertrude **Zoe Dion**

Fairy Godmother **Talia Rodriguez**

Sugar (Fairy Helper)
Cameron Carpentier

Spice (Fairy Helper) **Tyler Yeatts**

Pages
Lily Purse (Fairy Godmother u/s)
Nicole Cooper-Williams (Cinderella u/s)

Mouse/Ponies/Children's Ensemble

Ash Hall

Ice Hall

Mary Brown

Taylor Sparrow

Adult Ensemble
Zion Clarke (Fairy Helper u/s)
Nehemiah Ogbonna-Fulton
Ayan Rahman (Prince Charming u/s)
Karen Morgan Williams (Stepmama u/s)
Elena W Willis (Queen, Stepsisters u/s)

Production Team

Director **Ruthie Martinez**

Music Director
Christian L. Stahr

Choreographer

Jose Rondon Jr.

Costume Designer Vicki Olson

Lighting Designer **Darby E. Madewell**

Sound Designers and Engineers

Craig Johnson

Jonathan Kilom

Props Designer

Denise Schumaker

Stage Manager Chris Acevedo

Production Manager/Technical Director **Dennis R. Berfield**

Assistant Technical Director

Ali Wood

Costume Shop Manager/Resident Costume Designer **Jenny Mitchell**

Scenic Painters Shannon Clarke Hope Hammond

Associate Lighting Designer **Dustin Bowles**

Production Team

Assistant Stage Managers
Fox LaLeaf
Sonya LaLeaf

Dramaturg Rayden Leeder

Mouse Nanny
Marie Berry

Team Dynamics Strategist

Kristina Brunelle

The Royal Archestra

Musical Director/Keyboard
Christian L. Stahr

Bass Susannah Longest

Clarinet **Kathryn Brown**

Trumpet

Adah Morton

Percussion
Scott Lane

Violin **Levi McLaughlin**





4:30-7:00AM



7:00-10:00AM

Program Notes

Every magical journey begins with a wish made from the heart; a dream. A young girl who dreams of an adventure like the ones she reads in her book, to the boy who dreams to find love with a girl whose heart runs free. For those who are kind, brave, and have a creative spirit within them, a fairy godmother awaits to help make their dreams come true!

A tale as old as time. We all know the story of the kind hearted girl and her wicked step family who has the chance to live out her dreams, but only until midnight. This story has existed as far back as 7BC as an oral folk tale, before later being put to writing in 1697 with "Cendrillon" in 1697. The story would then become "Aschenputtel" in the Grimm Brothers Fairy Tales in 1812, the version of the story many of us are familiar with. From there, this story will go on to become the iconic Disney movie we all know and love, and has since gone on to spawn many more adaptations.

Raleigh Little Theatre decided to present their own spin on the classic tale over 40 years ago, and this beloved story has now become a holiday tradition within the theatre and the greater Raleigh community. What is it about Cinderella that has continued to delight audiences for all these years?

It is not often you see a character whose greatest strength comes from their kindness. Cinderella is able to inspire audiences with her kind heart and resilience, rising above the problems she faces with patience and generosity. No matter the challenge, Cinderella faces it head on through showing kindness to all and having faith in her heart to guide her through life. It's Cinderella's ability to be loving and selfless to others that makes an impact not only on the Fairy Godmother, but on all those who have seen her story. Kids and adults alike can look to Cinderella as a role model for how we can be gracious and helpful to one another to create a better world where we build each other up instead of tearing each other down. Cinderella teaches audiences that kindness is a strength and having a good heart will always take you farther than selfishness ever could.

Raleigh Little Theatre's adaptation adds on to these qualities by shining a light on Cinderella's imagination. In this story it is not only her heart that takes her far, but her mind and what she is able to do with it. Cinderella teaches us the power of creativity and all the incredible things we can accomplish if we only believe in our ideas. We learn that opening our minds to new ideas through reading helps us see the magic in the world, and our creativity lets us make our own magic to share with others. Audiences can learn from this Cinderella the true power that comes from reading and letting our imagination run wild.

Every magical journey begins with a wish made from the heart; a dream. But a dream can only go as far as we let it, and Raleigh Little Theatre's Cinderella teaches us that true magic comes from within, and all it takes is faith, heart, and the willingness to follow your imagination to turn your dreams into a wish come true.

Word Tearch



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MARY BROWN (Mouse/Pony/Children's Ensemble), age 11, is so excited to be in Cinderella at Raleigh Little Theatre, her second time in the show! Recently she played Ivanka in Once at Burning Coal, the Tuck Everlasting ensemble with Carv Applause, Moana with Melendez Theatre and Entertainment, and Princess Winnifred in Once Upon a Mattress with Live Kids Theatre camp. Mary would like to thank everybody supporting her through each show... directors, friends, and family.



CAMERON CARPENTIER (Sugar) attends Durham School of the Arts and has performed with Cary Players and North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre. Cameron is grateful for the experience gained at Starbright Youth Theatre and Durant Road Musical Theatre and is also grateful to Actors Training Ground and Moonlight Stage Company for acting training, One Music Stand for vocal training, and the UNC School of the Arts' summer intensive.



ZION CLARKE (Ensemble, u/s Fairy Helper) is making his debut at Raleigh Little Theatre with *Cinderella*, and he is very excited! Prior to moving to North Carolina, Zion lived in a small town called Galesburg, Illinois, where he did theatre for Knox College and Prairie Players Civic Theatre. His favorite role to date has been Christopher in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. He hopes you have a marvelous, magical time! IG: @zion_the_actor



NICOLE COOPER-WILLIAMS (Page/Ensemble, u/s Cinderella) is thrilled to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut in *Cinderella* and would like to thank Raleigh Little Theatre for this wonderful experience and opportunity. Past credits include Ensemble in *Ada and the Engine* at NCSU, Sanchez in *Peter and the Starcatcher* at NCSU, and many more! Nicole hopes you all enjoy the show!



PAUL DARGAN (Prince Charming I) is from Durham, NC, and is a Theatre Performance graduate with honors from NCCU. Previous show credits include Police Capt., Judge (The Producers), Ralph (A Need Fulfilled), and Chevalier (Abolition). When free time is an option, his hobbies are volunteering for non-profit organizations and moving furniture for customers. He hopes everyone in the audience finds joy in tonight's show. A big thank you to the hard-working crew for an incredible production.



ZOE DION (Gertrude) is a 24-year-old film editor from Raleigh. They grew up seeing RLT's *Cinderella* and met their first voice teacher Alison Lawrence at auditions when they were nine. This is Zoe's first theater production in seven years, and they are absolutely delighted to be a part of this Raleigh tradition. Zoe wants to thank their wonderful parents Lisa and John for being so supportive and their friend Ebie for encouraging them to try out.



ADALYNN ELLER (Cinderella) is a voice/piano teacher originally from Roanoke, VA, thrilled to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut! She recently received her Master of Music in Vocal Performance (Musical Theatre) and an Advanced Certificate (Vocal Pedagogy) from New York University, as well as a Certificate of Vocology from the Summer Vocology Institute. Some of her favorite credits include Burning Coal Theatre Company's Oakwood Cemetery Series (Jean/Ensemble) and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Logainne) at NYU.



ASH HALL (Mouse/Pony/Children's Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of *Cinderella* 41. She has been taking voice lessons at Alli Mae Carnes Studio, dance lessons at North Carolina Dance Institute, acting lessons at Moonlight Stage Company, and was trained at North Carolina Theatre Conservatory previously. Some of her credits include *Into the Woods* (Little Red) at NCTC; *James and the Giant Peach* (Ladahlord) at AMCS; and *Newsies* (Crutchie) at Starbright Youth Theatre. IG: @ash.zenzoo



ICE HALL (Mouse/Pony/Children's Ensemble) is a 5th grader at Powell Elementary. She has been taking voice lessons at Alli Mae Carnes Studio, dance lessons at North Carolina Dance Institute, acting lessons at Moonlight Stage Company and was trained at North Carolina Theatre Conservatory previously. Past credits include Into the Woods (Little Red) at NCTC; James and the Giant Peach (Earthworm) at AMCS; and Les Miserables (Gavroche) at Enloe High School. Enjoy Cinderella 41! IG: @ice.zenzoo



ZANEH HASSOUNEH (Henrietta) is making her debut at Raleigh Little Theatre in this year's production of *Cinderella*! They hope to pursue a career in theatre one day. Some notable roles for Zaneh include Calvin in *A Wrinkle In Time*, Klytemnestra in *Elektra*, and Sir Edward Clarke in *Gross Indecency*, all at UNC Asheville. They are very grateful for all of you coming and spending your holiday with us for this magical tradition and hope you enjoy the show!!



AMY KEMP (Stepmama) is thrilled to be continuing her Villain Era and making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut! Recent roles include Miss Hedge in Everybody's Talking About Jamie (NRACT), Mrs. Whitstein in Ragtime (McGregor Hall), and Kate in Oklahoma (UNCG). When not in the theatre, she can usually be found scaring small children at the public library. Many thanks to friends and family for their constant love and support!



ALYSSE MILLER (Queen Darling III) is a 2024 graduate of Lee University with a degree in Theatre and a minor in Musical Theatre. Recently married, she has relocated to North Carolina and is thrilled to begin this new chapter. Alysse is excited to bring meaningful stories to life on stage. Grounded in faith, she is passionate about using her Godgiven talents to inspire others and glorify Him through the arts. Connect with her on Instagram: @alysse_nadine



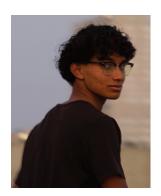
KAREN MORGAN WILLIAMS (Ensemble, u/s Stepmama) is honored and humbled to return to the RLT Cinderella family. It has been an extraordinary experience working with this amazing group of talented actors and crew. Karen's recent musical theatre credits include Hands On A Hardbody, Annie, Memphis, Assassins, Into The Woods, Sweeney Todd, Fiddler On The Roof, Little Women, and Gypsy. Other recent credits include Doubt, Misery, August: Osage County and Macbeth. Karen wants to thank her family and friends for their support.



NEHEMIAH OGBONNA-FULTON (Ensemble) is a 15-year-old student at North Wake Early College and Career Academy. This marks his Raleigh Little Theatre debut. He has previously performed in *Newsies* and *High School Musical* at Neuse River Middle School and has trained in acting through programs such as the Back To One acting class. Nehemiah is passionate about performing and aspires to build a career as an actor.



LILY PURSE (Page/Ensemble, u/s Fairy Godmother) is so excited to be making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut in *Cinderella*! She is a junior at North Carolina State University studying English with a concentration in creative writing and would like to work as a songwriter in the future. This will be her first theatre production since middle school, and she is grateful for the opportunity to get back into it. She thanks her friends and family for always supporting her.



AYAN RAHMAN (Ensemble, u/s Prince Charming) is thrilled to make his Raleigh Little Theatre debut. Ayan is a junior at Athens Drive High School, a dedicated young performer and a talented singer. He's grown up loving the stage and has built real confidence as a vocalist through performances at talent shows and other live events. Ayan stays involved in theatre and creative work at school, where he helps build spaces for young artists.



TALIA RODRIGUEZ (Fairy Godmother) is thrilled to be joining her first Raleigh Little Theatre production! Talia has previously been in Around the World in 80 Days, Little Shop of Horrors, and Fiddler on the Roof at NCSU. Singing and performing are her passions - from arias about kitchen cabinets as a kid to making Ella's dreams come true today. Talia also is a video producer (portfolio: taliancrodriguez. myportfolio.com). She thanks her family, friends, and her glorious best friend/fiancé for supporting her always.



TAYLOR SPARROW (Mouse/Pony/Children's Ensemble) is a third grader and delighted to be making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut! Past performances include St. David's School's production of *Matilda* (children's ensemble) and TRACT's *Frozen Kids!* (Queen Iduna). Taylor feels blessed to have this opportunity! She thanks her family, friends, David McClutchey, Rose Everett, Cyndi Romero, and Jennifer Paschal for their support. Thank you to the *Cinderella* cast, crew and directors for making this a dream come true!



ELENA W WILLIS (Ensemble, u/s Queen Darling, Stepsisters) is so excited to be making her debut with Raleigh Little Theatre for this year's production of *Cinderella*. Elena is a senior at NC State, pursuing a bachelor's in criminology and a minor in history. She has been in a wide variety of shows near her hometown of Davidson, NC, and is so glad to be back in the theater after taking a break to pursue her education in Raleigh.



TYLER YEATTS (Spice) is thrilled to return to Raleigh Little Theatre, where he previously appeared as Geyser in *Mad Libs Live!* Tyler earned a B.A. in Communication Studies from Campbell University with concentrations in Broadcasting and Public Relations. Past roles include Roo in *Winnie The Pooh*, Pig Pen in *Charlie Brown Christmas*, and Tartuffe in Moliere's *Tartuffe*. He enjoys playing the guitar and making songs, spending time with family, and relaxing with a great sitcom or movie.



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RUTHIE MARTINEZ (Director) is so excited to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre, where she began performing as a teenager. Ruthie earned her undergraduate degree in drama from UNC-CH and her MFA from UNCG. She has worked extensively in theatre education. She ran the arts and drama programs for over 20 years at Greensboro Day School, and has also taught at the college level at multiple community colleges, Salem College, and Appalachian State, as well as teaching K-12. She also teaches regularly in the education programs at RLT. As a performer, some of her favorite recent roles have included the Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Rosie in *Mamma Mia*, and Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*. Her favorite role at RLT was the title role in *Gypsy* in 1981, and most recently she was featured in *Blood Wedding*.

CHRISTIAN L. STAHR (Music Director & Orchestrator) is delighted to return to Raleigh Little Theatre as Music Director and Orchestrator for a magical production of *Cinderella* 41. At Burning Coal Theatre, he has served as Music Director for Once, *Merrily We Roll Along, A Little Night Music,* and *Sunday in the Park with George*, and as Composer for *Copenhagen*. For PlayMakers Repertory Company, he was Music Director for *Pippin*. In Norway, Christian composed and music directed the musicals *St. Olaf the Lucky One* and *4Real*. In New York City, he served as Director of Culture at the Norwegian Seamen's Church and Pianist for the Dramatists Guild Fund. He holds an MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Christian is thrilled to help bring the magic of *Cinderella* to life once again alongside this fantastic cast and crew. Grateful for the love and support of family and friends - especially his wife, Sarah Lynn Winter, and their cats, Dwight and Norman. www.stahrmusic.com

JOSE RONDON JR (Choreographer) is a member of Actors Equity Association and the Community Engagement & Education Coordinator for DPAC. His work has been featured at the NBTF and JTF. Favorite choreography credits: Songs for A New World (NCT), Spongebob the Musical, Rock of Ages (UNCG), Heathers the Musical (NCT Conservatory), Tarzan the Musical, Addams Family the Musical (Heritage High), It's A Hard Knock Life, and Pride Land (The Pointe!). Favorite performing credits: Mary Poppins, Spamalot, and Kinky Boots.

VICKI OLSON (Costume Designer) was a costume designer with Raleigh Little Theatre for 24 seasons. After receiving her MFA from UNC-G in 1985 she became RLT's first professional costume designer. Her creativity and fine work could be seen in countless productions including Spamalot, Hairspray, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Much Ado About Nothing, and Cinderella. She has enjoyed working with so many talented and wonderful people.

DARBY E. MADEWELL (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be a part of this fabulous production team and working with Raleigh Little Theatre again! Recent credits include lighting design for *Witch* and *Hadestown: Teen Edition* at RLT, *Hamlet* at Theatre in the Park, *Bright Star* at Pure Life Theatre Company, and the 38th, 39th, and 40th annual productions of *Cinderella* at RLT. Darby is an interdisciplinary artist with a decade of experience creating theatre as a lighting designer, projections designer, and stage manager. www.darbyemadewell.com

CRAIG JOHNSON (Sound Designer) is excited to be back at RLT. Earlier he served as Sound designer for *Cinderella 40* 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!

JONATHAN KILOM (Sound Designer and Engineer) is deeply appreciative of the opportunity that Raleigh Little Theatre has given him to design and assist with bringing this production of *Cinderella* to life. Originally from Queens, New York, Jonathan has worked as a technician for over twelve years in cities such as New York, Baltimore, Washington DC, and now Raleigh. He has worked on a range of productions including theatre, concerts, dance recitals, and more. Jonathan now serves as Technical Director of Theatre at Longleaf School of the Arts, where he hopes to inspire the next generation of technical theatre artists with his passion for the art. He is very excited for this production and can't wait to take part in the next one!

DENISE SCHUMAKER (Props Designer) has designed costumes, props and sets for theatre, dance, opera, and tours, plus film, television, and MrBeast, for 40 years. She was honored with an Emmy® nomination in 2010. Recent work includes *Polyfamory* on TLC, the horror film *Bloodspawn* (2024), *Cendrillon* for North Carolina Opera, *Mad Libs Live!* for Raleigh Little Theatre, and Raleigh Little Theatre For the Very Young productions of *All Smiles* and *The Wheels on The Bus*.

CHRIS ACEVEDO (Stage Manager) is excited to be back for his third year of getting Cinderella to the Ball! His last Stage Management gig was with Pure Life Theatre's *The Waning Hours*. Chris would like to thank his friends, family, and YOU for continuing to support the arts!

IG: @livinglife1994

SHANNON CLARK (Scenic Painter) is delighted to return to work with the outstanding cast and crew of *Cinderella* 41! Shannon has worked as scenic designer/painter at the Raleigh Little Theatre since 2005. He retired after a 27-year career as a theatrical designer and theatre artist. Shannon is looking forward to designing the scenic elements for 1776, which will be here at RLT in early spring 2026. See you at the theater!

HOPE H. HAMMOND (Scenic Painter) is excited to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre working with so many talented individuals. She has been a part of multiple productions over the past years as a scenic artist, most recently for *Kinky Boots*. When not at Raleigh Little Theatre, she can be found spending time with her family - preferably traveling!

FOX LALEAF (Assistant Stage Manager) loves working backstage at different theatres, either by building sets or working a show. *Cinderella* 41 will be their second time being a fairy helper (of the shadows that is)! When Fox is not at the theatre, you can find them on stage as Hummingbird, a drag performer!

SONYA LALEAF (Assistant Stage Manager) aka Theatre Gremlin is joyful to put a pumpkin on stage for a second year! Sonya loves riding around on their unicorn high up in the clouds. They would like to thank their parents for putting up with their silly goose ways, and Fox Fox for... hmmmmm... I'm not sure. JK! Partying with them!

DUSTIN BOWLES (Associate Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be on the production team for *Cinderella*... this time as a former cast member AND your Reigning Diva! Queen Darling and the Prince aren't the only ones with crowns around here! He works in Human Resources by day and is a theatre volunteer by night. Other free time is spent being an avid Carolina Hurricanes fan (LET'S GO CANES!). He thanks his family, friends, Darby, and RLT staff for their continued support!

MARIE BERRY (Mouse Nanny) has been involved with *Cinderella* for 24 years. First year as dresser, but since then she has been watching over the youngest of the cast members. When not involved with RLT, she enjoys knitting and competitive jigsaw puzzling. Thank you to all of my mice over the years and to Ruth who introduced me to theatre.

RAYDEN LEEDER (Dramaturg) is excited to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre for another show! Recent production credits include Schoolhouse Rock Live! (Dramaturg), Akeelah and the Bee (Dramaturg), Cinderella 40 (Dramaturg), I and You (Director), and Lynn Nottage's Sweat (Asst. Director/Dramaturg). Rayden would like to thank all the cast and crew for all the love put into this show to make it so magnificent!

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



BE THERE MAY 2, 2026, WHEN THE DIVAS TAKE THE STAGE FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY VEGAS-STYLE REVUE BENEFITING RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE! ENJOY POWERHOUSE PERFORMANCES, A LIVELY RECEPTION, AND AN EXCITING SILENT AUCTION — ALL IN CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS.



SAVE THE DATE - MAY 2, 2026!

Royal Archestra Biographies

SCOTT LANE (Drums/Percussion). Burning Coal Theatre: *Matilda, Merrily We Roll Along*. New Orleans Theatre: *West Side Story*.

North Carolina Theatre: *Evita, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, My Fair Lady, Hairspray, Dreamgirls, Singin' in the Rain, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Annie, Miss Saigon, Chess, Crazy for You, The Sound of Music, The Wizard of Oz, 1776, Annie Get Your Gun, Man of La Mancha*. For US National Tour: *Hello, Dolly!, Ragtime*.

SUSANNAH LONGEST (Bass) is glad to be making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut. Previous credits include *Merrily We Roll Along* (Burning Coal Theatre), *Hairspray*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Furman University Pauper Players). Outside of playing bass at church and with friends, she works at the NC Rural Center. Love and thanks to Patrick and Beanie.

LEVI MCLAUGHLIN (Violin) has spent decades playing professional and semi-professional concerts in the U.S.A., Japan, and his native Canada. When he's not playing violin in the pit, he is a professor of Asian religions at North Carolina State University.

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.

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.

Raleigh Little Theatre Staff Biographies

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.

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 inevitable future Mouse/Pony) 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.

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Raleigh Little Theatre Stall Biographies

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.

DENISE SCHUMAKER (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 *Polyfamory* 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*.

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.

Raleigh Little Theatre Staff Biographies

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.



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 November 7, 2024 - November 7, 2025.

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

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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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