



RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE

2025/2026
SEASON

1776

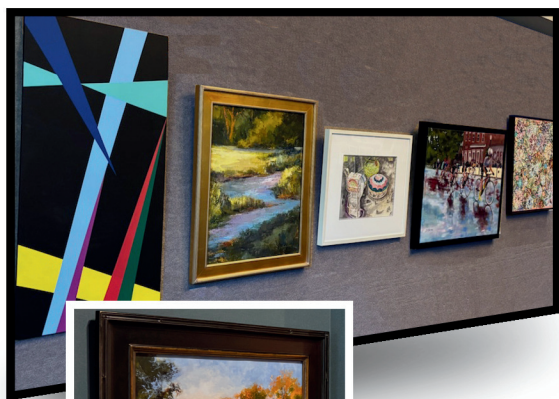


MARCH 27 - APRIL 19

Music and Lyrics by **SHERMAN EDWARDS**
Book by **PETER STONE**

Spotlights, + Brushes &rokes

The Arts are Exploding at Raleigh Little Theatre!



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

Curated by local artists **Jean Corbett**, **Eileen Hendren**, and **Scott Jamison**, the exhibit features original pottery, landscapes, still lifes, abstracts, and much more from **award-winning local talents**.

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presents



America's Prize Winning Musical

**MUSIC AND LYRICS BY SHERMAN EDWARDS
BOOK BY PETER STONE**

Based on a concept by Sherman Edwards

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY PETER HUNT

Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by Stuart Ostrow

Directed by Patrick Torres

Music Directed by Katherine Anderson

Choreographed by Aya Wallace

Scenic Design by Shannon Clark

Costume Design by Denise Schumaker

Lighting Design by Erin Bell

Sound Design by John Maruca

Props Design by Mikki Marvel

Stage Management by Cynita Lew

1776 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.**

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CHRIS LOVINGOOD

RENEE CHOU

ELIZABETH GARDNER

WRAL NEWS
MORNINGS

4:30-7:00AM

WRAL NEWS
FOX 50

7:00-10:00AM

SPONSORS

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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.



1776 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 David Watts for website maintenance and Charis Torres for slides.

WELCOME TO RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

Welcome to Raleigh Little Theatre and to *1776*.

In 2026, our nation marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The anniversary invites us to not only consider the moment itself but also consider the enduring ideals set in motion on those hot Philadelphia days where the founders argued, disagreed, and pushed one another toward an imperfect consensus.

1776 invites us into the room where those ideals were debated, which can feel strikingly familiar. The conversations in this play about representation, power, and the belief that a people can shape their own future continue to echo across our country today. But democracy has **always** been noisy and complicated, as you will also see throughout the play. Theatre has a way of showing us ourselves in ways that are relatable and opposite without demanding we choose either one.

We are especially pleased to welcome Patrick Torres back to the area as the director of this production. As always, Patrick brings his thoughtful and passionate approach to storytelling, and his return to our artistic community is something we celebrate.

We hope you enjoy the music, the humor, and the spirited exchanges in *1776*. We also hope it sparks reflection on the enduring questions and necessary ongoing work at the heart of our democracy. Shaping our shared future belongs to all of us.

Warmly,



Michele Weathers
Producing Artistic Director



PS - Raleigh Little Theatre is powered by a community of volunteers who prove theatre is the highest form of collaboration. If you would like to join us, please visit our website to find out how. We all deserve to live a creative life, and we want to be part of yours.



ONE NIGHT ONLY!

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.



RALEIGH
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THEATRE

SAVE THE DATE — MAY 2, 2026!

CAST

John Adams

Greg Toft

Benjamin Franklin

Rhonda Lemon

(John Adams u/s)

Thomas Jefferson

Bryce Nasir-Preston

Abigail Adams/

Rev. John Witherspoon

Elizabeth Galbraith

Martha Jefferson/Dr. Lyman Hall

Lillian Park

Edward Rutledge

Lauren Bamford

Richard Henry Lee

Ben Muller

Painter/Courier

Atticus Blum

John Dickinson

John Adams

Robert Livingston/Lewis Morris

Clare Sherk

(Martha Jefferson/Dr. Lyman Hall u/s)

Roger Sherman

Kristen Stinnett

(Abigail Adams/Rev. John Witherspoon u/s)

CAST

John Hancock
Ruthie Martinez

Dr. Josiah Bartlett
Tim Wiest

Stephen Hopkins
Ron Mitchell

James Wilson
Stephon Sample
(Benjamin Franklin u/s)

Caesar Rodney
Ash Curtis

Colonel Thomas McKean
Don Bean

George Reed
Elise Boorum
(Painter/Courier u/s)

Samuel Chase
Karen Morgan Williams
(Edward Rutledge u/s)

Joseph Hewes
Danielle Ryan

Charles Thomson
Del Flack

Andrew McNair
Nehiel Ortiz
(Richard Henry Lee u/s)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
Patrick Torres

Music Director
Katherine Anderson

Choreographer
Aya Wallace

Scenic Designer
Shannon Clark

Costume Designer/Associate
Costume Shop Manager
Denise Schumaker

Lighting Designer
Erin Bell

Sound Designer
John Maruca

Stage Manager
Cynita Lew

Props Designer
Mikki Marvel

Scenic Painter
Hope H. Hammond

Production Manager/
Technical Director
Dennis R. Berfield

Resident Costume Designer/
Costume Shop Manager
Jenny Mitchell

Assistant Technical Director
Ali Wood

Assistant Director
Jah'Mar Coakley

Assistant Stage Managers
Angel Grayson
Alex Gromo
Gavin Hamilton

Music Assistant
Atticus Blum

Team Dynamics Strategist
Kristina Brunelle

ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keys
Katherine Anderson

Violin
Rachel Sales

Bass
Bryan Hansen
Keith Lewis
Joe Wimberley

Clarinet
Dexter Brickell

Trumpet
Christian McIvor
Tyler Wrench

Trombone
Don Patrick
Audrey Suehs

Flute and Piccolo
Dexter Moses
Kenneth Northcutt
Steve Rose

Percussion
Rebecca Farlow
Priscilla James

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

When the Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago, it sparked hope for a new way of being as a nation. Its foundational principle that “all men are created equal” was proclaimed at a time when enslaved people were legally treated as property. Even in the writing of this essential document, there was a profound debate about how far its ideals should extend.

In the 250 years since its signing, America has wrestled with those founding principles in an ongoing effort to live up to them. The challenge has always been in how people interpret the meaning of equality and who is included in it. These interpretations have led to some of the darkest moments in our nation’s history, when neighbors have been pitted against neighbors, and also to some of its brightest moments, when rights and freedoms have been expanded to more people.

Today, we remain deeply engaged in this struggle. Rights once secured are debated, threatened, or terminated. We continue to wrestle with what it means to live into the ideals written into this foundational document.

So what does it mean to produce this show at a moment when we are preparing to celebrate 250 years of independence, while for some those inalienable rights still feel incomplete or unevenly applied?

As extraordinary as this musical is, it cannot fully answer the complexities of our present moment. What it can do is invite us to remember that the ideas born in the writing of the Declaration of Independence are not just historical artifacts. They are responsibilities. They require the ongoing participation of each generation and each one of us.

Our production embraces an intentionally anachronistic design. John Adams appears as a figure from 1776, bringing his traditions to the modern world, reminding us that the debates that filled the Continental Congress have never truly ended. The questions Adams and his colleagues struggled with then about equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the same questions that remain before us today.

The story of 1776 is not only about the country that was imagined in that room. It is about the country we are still being asked to create.

Patrick Torres
Director, 1776



ORDER OF SONGS

ACT I

Scene 1: The Chamber of the Continental Congress

For God's Sake, John, Sit Down	Adams and The Congress
Piddle, Twiddle	Adams
Till Then	Adams and Abigail

Scene 2: The Mall

The Lees of Old Virginia	Lee, Franklin, and Adams
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Scene 3: The Chamber

But, Mr. Adams -	Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Sherman, and Livingston
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Scene 4: Thomas Jefferson's Room and High Street

Yours, Yours, Yours	Adams and Abigail
He Plays the Violin	Martha, Franklin, and Adams

Scene 5: The Chamber

Cool, Cool, Considerate Men	Dickinson and The Conservatives
Mama Look Sharp	Courier

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

ACT II

Scene 6: A Congressional Anteroom

The Egg	Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and The Congress
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Scene 7: The Chamber

Molasses to Rum	Rutledge
Compliments	Abigail
Is Anybody There?	Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Thompson

COSTUME NOTES

The 1972 film version of *1776* is one of my favorite things to listen to while sewing. It's almost word for word the same as the stage version and features most of the original Broadway cast. With my focus on my needle instead of the screen, I'm much more aware of the dialogue and lyrics. I've watched it a thousand times, but I'm consistently amused by the witty banter and inspired by every character's devotion to his stance, even if I don't personally agree with it.

The more I listen to the movie/show, the more I realize that Congress is *still* arguing about a lot of the same topics today as they did in the country's infancy. The only things that have changed are the diversity and the clothing.

It makes me wonder: What if the Declaration of Independence was being debated *today*? Would our representatives take it seriously? Would it include different arguments? Would they be able to work out their disagreements and vote unanimously to adopt it?

As I listen to John Adams plead with his compatriots to fight for independence from a tyrant King, I have the oddest feeling that he is talking to me! I can feel the spirit of John Adams making the *same* arguments to today's Congress.

When I was asked to design the costumes for RLT's production of *1776*, I knew I wanted to explore what it would look like if the very existence of America depended upon us. Now. Would we, with the benefit of hindsight, listen to John Adams or try to shut him up?

Someone up on stage today represents YOU. The choice is YOURS.

Denise Schumaker

Costume Designer, *1776*



CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JOHN ADAMS (John Dickinson) neither obnoxious nor disliked; cool, but NOT conservative, is pleased to represent his native Pennsylvania, where he portrayed Charles Thomson 45 years ago in dinner theater. A longtime Raleigh Little Theatre veteran, he dedicates his performance in loving memory to Haskell and Maggie and his constant champion and biggest fan, his mother, born 100 years ago March 4th. Boy, did she ever... Thanks Patrick, Katherine, Aya and the production team for this opportunity!



LAUREN BAMFORD (Edward Rutledge) is excited to be back on the Raleigh Little Theatre stage! Lauren is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of New England. Favorite roles in the Triangle include Julie, *Carousel* (Drop Spindle), Heidi, *Title of Show* (TheatreFEST), and Phoebe in *Gentleman's Guide* (Raleigh Little Theatre). When not on stage, she can be found traipsing through the woods, rolling dice, and getting into shenanigans with her DnD besties (and her very orange cat, Dodger).



DON BEAN (Colonel Thomas McKean) is a New England native who has lived in the Triangle for more than 30 years, including the past four in Raleigh. Don is honored to make his Raleigh Little Theatre debut in *1776*, marking his first time back on stage after a “brief” 35-year intermission. He is thankful to the cast and creative team for their warm welcome, and especially to his daughter for her support and encouragement.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



ATTICUS BLUM (Painter/Courier and Music Assistant) is delighted to be back in the Sutton! You may have seen him on stage across the Triangle as Daphnis in *Daphnis and Chloe*, Ensemble 3 in *King Lear*, and Pugsley in *Addams Family*. He would like to thank the cast and crew of *1776* for all their hard work and support. Much love to his sisters, parents and, of course, to Cedrik and Ripley, the bestest birby boys in the whole world.



ELISE BOOROM (George Reed) is thrilled to be making her debut with Raleigh Little Theatre! A recent graduate of NC State, she spent the past four years performing competitively with Chordination A Cappella (yes, just like in *Pitch Perfect*). She is honored to help bring this powerful reimagining of our nation's history to the stage and to celebrate the power of inclusive storytelling. Thank you to the cast and crew for making this an incredible experience! Instagram: @eliseboo_music



ASH CURTIS (Caesar Rodney) first stepped onto the RLT stage in 1986. He last set foot on the RLT stage in 1993. After spending the past 3 decades in NYC and Boston, he is so happy to return to Raleigh, community theater, and this stage. To this beautifully fun and supportive RLT cast and crew, he extends a heartfelt "thank you" for the welcome home. This one's for dad. Te amo, Matt!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



DEL FLACK (Charles Thomson) is excited to be back on the Raleigh Little Theatre stage with such a great cast and crew! Favorite Raleigh Little Theatre roles he's played include Clown 2 in *The 39 Steps*, Mr. Simmons in *Memphis*, The Stranger in *The Spitfire Grill*, and Banjo in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Many thanks to you for coming to see us. Now sit back, relax, and let us tell you a story!



ELIZABETH GALBRAITH (Abigail Adams/ Rev. John Witherspoon) is making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut and is ecstatic to share the stage with such an amazing cast and team. Some of her performance highlights include *Stop Kiss* (Sara) and *Cabaret* (Frauline Kost) with the Justice Theatre Project, *Troilus and Cressida* (Helen of Troy) with Rise Up!, *Engaged to Death* (Hyacinth) with Seed Art Share, *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (swing) with Theatre Raleigh, and *Diamond Lil* at Tweetsie Railroad.



RHONDA LEMON (Ben Franklin) is tickled to be back performing at RLT (last seen in *Curtains*) with this beautifully diverse cast and crew. Special shoutout to Doc Underwood for showing a clip of "But, Mr. Adams" in 11th grade AP US History, sparking a lifelong love of musicals and appreciation of their endless variety. Love to friends, family, husband Christian and their three (very stinky) cats. "Well done is better than well said." - BF

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



RUTHIE MARTINEZ (John Hancock) is excited to finally get a chance to do this play on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration! Ruthie works in the Education program at Raleigh Little Theatre, teaches for Sandhills and Coastal Carolina Community Colleges and also directed *Cinderella* 40 and 41. Recent theatre roles have included *Bright Star* (Mama Murphy), *Nunsense* (Sr. Hubert), *The Foreigner* (Betty Meeks), *Blood Wedding* (Mother In Law) and *Steel Magnolias* (Claire). Love to Bill!



RON MITCHELL (Stephen Hopkins) is very happy to be making his third appearance with RLT after *The Rivals* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Born and raised in London, England, he has lived in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and finally, Raleigh. Along the way, he performed in a number of shows, including *My Fair Lady*, *1776*, *Me and My Girl*, and other roles. Ron wants to thank his wife, Judith, for her enthusiasm and encouragement.



KAREN MORGAN WILLIAMS (Samuel Chase) is honored and humbled to return to the RLT Stage for *1776*. 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.



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April 17, 2026

Fuquay Varina Arts Center

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or scan the QR below



CAST BIOGRAPHIES



BEN MULLER (Richard Henry Lee) is excited to return to Raleigh Little Theatre for this timely and poignant production. Favorite past roles include Mitch in *Spelling Bee* (Raleigh Little Theatre), Black in *The Wild Party* (NRACT), and Dennis in *All Shook Up* (Pauper Players). He wishes to thank this amazing cast, crew, and production team, his family and friends in the audience from near and far, and especially his partner Laurel and their poorly behaved pups, Milton and Tallulah.



BRYCE NASIR-PRESTON (Thomas Jefferson) is delighted to appear in *1776*. Previous theatre credits include *In the Heights* (Benny), *Cabaret* (Emcee), *Godspell*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His performance background spans theatre, improv, and music, with training from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Upright Citizens Brigade. He is grateful to the cast, creative team, and audience for supporting live theatre.

Instagram: @brycenasirpreston



NEHIEL ORTIZ (Andrew McNair) participated in his inaugural musical theater production with RLT in *Something Rotten* in 2024 and is pleased to return to the RLT stage for this innovative adaptation of *1776*. He expresses his sincere appreciation to his friends, family, colleagues, and the Triangle theater community for their ongoing support of his artistic endeavors.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



LILLIAN PARK (Martha Jefferson/Dr. Lyman Hall) is a performer, arranger, composer, and educator originally from Albany, California. They are a multi-instrumentalist and specialize in teaching piano and voice. Lillian attended North Carolina Central University and received a dual BA degree in Jazz Studies and Music Education in 2022. Lillian can usually be seen performing vocal jazz in the Triangle area. This is their second musical performance, and they are excited about their Raleigh Little Theatre debut!



DANIELLE RYAN (Joseph Hewes) is excited to rediscover her love of theater after many years away. She appeared in numerous productions in high school and college and, as a North Carolina history nerd, is thrilled to portray Joseph Hewes, the North Carolina delegate. Danielle works as a political and nonprofit professional in North Carolina and is a part-time piano teacher in Raleigh. She thanks her partner, Duncan, for his constant support of her passions.



STEPHON SAMPLE (James Wilson) is excited to return to the RLT stage! This is his fourth production with RLT, others being: *Curtains*, *Cinderella 39*, and *Something Rotten*. A landscape tech at NC State, his love for theatre never fails to shine through. He is grateful to tell this tale of the Declaration, especially in the state the world is in now. He hopes you leave this production thinking and ruminating on the ideals this country was founded on. Please enjoy the show!



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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



CLARE SHERK (Robert Livingston/Lewis Morris) is a self-proclaimed history nerd, and as such she feels incredibly lucky to portray a founding father in this insanely special and important production. Some favorite past roles include Dina (*Schoolhouse Rock Live!*), Columbia (*The Rocky Horror Show*), and Ashlee (*Dance Nation*). So much love and thanks to her parents, her sister and stepbro, her amazing husband, and her friends (including cutie pets)!

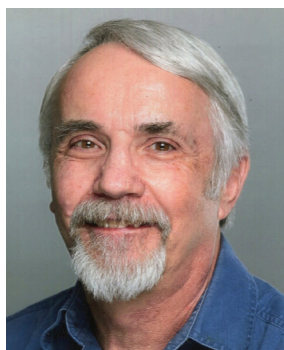


KRISTEN STINETT (Roger Sherman) has been seen on stage in *Candide* in 2006 and *Sweeney Todd* in 2016 at Raleigh Little Theatre (there's a trend), and as Alison in *Fun Home* at NRACT. Nearly 20 years of mixing sound including RLT: *Urinetown*, *Rocky Horror*, *Spring Awakening*, *Hairspray*, *Memphis*, *Sister Act*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *In the Heights*; NRACT: *Parade*, *Cruel Intentions*, *Between the Lines*, *9 to 5*, and *The View Upstairs*. She thanks Carly for her love and support.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



GREG TOFT (John Adams) is thrilled to be returning to RLT. Originally from Nebraska, Greg was a history teacher in NYC before making his home in Durham. Greg has been seen as Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd* and Frollo in *Hunchback* at McGregor Hall, Bruce in *Fun Home* at NRACT and Marty in *It Should Have Been You* at TiP. Big love and much thanks to James and Tallulah for their continuing support. And shout out to his current and former students, especially Eva Hopper, for reminding him to keep learning!



TIM WIEST (Dr. Josiah Bartlett) has been active as an actor and director in and around the Triangle for 35 years. Although he appeared regularly at Raleigh Little Theatre in the 1990s and 2000s, this show marks his first role here since he performed Dr. Lyman in *Bus Stop* in 2013.

PRODUCTION TEAM

BIOGRAPHIES

PATRICK TORRES (Director) is a theatre director, producer, and educator whose work centers on creating meaningful, community-driven artistic experiences. He served as the Artistic Director of Raleigh Little Theatre, where he directed a wide range of productions over his eight-year tenure, fostering inclusive storytelling and cultivating new audiences. Torres began his career as the Directing Fellow at The Shakespeare Theatre Company, later serving as Associate Artistic Director at Young Playwrights' Theater, where he championed emerging playwrights and developed programs that amplified underrepresented voices. Patrick is grateful for the support of his family who makes this work possible.

KATHERINE ANDERSON (Music Director) is happy to be music directing *1776* at RLT. Her history with RLT goes back 20 years. She has enjoyed teaming up with Patrick Torres again after working with him at RLT as a performer in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and music director for *Pippin*. She played Cinderella in RLT's *Cinderella* in 2007 and music directed it in more recent years. She will be performing as a Divas contestant this year in early May, returning as a prior Divas winner.

AYA WALLACE (Choreographer) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist dedicated to storytelling through expressive, character-driven movement that honors each artist's natural abilities to support narrative and deepen emotional connection onstage. Recent choreography credits include *Three Little Birds* (RLT/Pure Life Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre), *Hands on a Hardbody* (RLT, co-choreographer), *Last Stop on Market Street* (RLT), *Matilda* (NRACT CAST Camp), and *Motown & Soul Christmas* (PLT). Aya is thrilled to collaborate again with Patrick Torres.

SHANNON CLARK (Scenic Designer) is delighted to return to work with the outstanding cast and crew of *1776*! 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. Most recently at RLT, he was the Scenic Painter for *Cinderella 41*. See you at the theater!

PRODUCTION TEAM

BIOGRAPHIES

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 *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*.

ERIN BELL (Lighting Designer) is an event photographer and theatrical lighting designer based in Durham, NC. Recent lighting design credits include *Maker Moves* (Bay 7), *The Durham Nutcracker* (Walltown Children's Theater), *Is This a Room* (NC Stage), *What We Leave Behind* (Theatre Raleigh), *Recital* (Alyssa Noble & Chris Strauss), *The Lehman Trilogy* (NC Stage), and *Akeelah and the Bee* (Raleigh Little Theatre).

JOHN MARUCA (Sound Designer) is a sound designer and video producer who works on projects for theaters around the Triangle and across eastern North Carolina. He draws on his experience as a musician, sound engineer, and video editor to create sound and visual landscapes that set a scene or reinforce the mood or action on stage. Most recently he has worked as designer for *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, and *Mad Libs Live!*, as well as providing general sound support for other shows. John has been a part of Teens on Stage / Teens Backstage for more than ten years and he is looking forward to working with the program again this summer. He is very excited to work with Patrick Torres again by providing sound design for this innovative production of *1776*.

MIKKI MARVEL (Props Designer) dedicates this performance to their uncle Brian Kepner, historian and reenactor, who passed away last year. Past credits include Director of *Exit Pursued by a Bear* at Raleigh Little Theatre, Artistic Director of Triangle Sketch Comedy, and Co-Organizer of Raleigh Fringe Festival. When not making art, you can find Mikki playing video games, reading sci-fi, and watching horror anthologies with their husband Brian and two cats, Billie and Miles. Instagram: @mikkim Marvel

PRODUCTION TEAM

BIOGRAPHIES

MONTGOMERY DAVIS (Fight and Intimacy Director) is excited to be returning to work at RLT. They have been such a joy to work with as they have returned back to the Triangle area after 13 years of touring and living in Atlanta. They are a recent graduate of N.C. State University, where they graduated with their master's in Elementary Education. They work as a fight and intimacy choreographer here in the Triangle and have done work both nationally and internationally, on stage, film, TV, and in video games. They are currently also teaching stage combat for RLT. Recent credits include: *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Witch, Hadestown*, *Something Rotten* (RLT), *Cruel Intentions* (NRACT), *Grapes of Wrath* (Oglethorpe University), *Spring Awakening*, *Assassins* (Jennie T. Anderson), *Wait Until Dark* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), and many more. They would like to send a special thanks to their husband, their three dogs, and their friends for their continued support.

CYNITA LEW (Stage Manager) is excited to return to RLT to work alongside Patrick on such a relevant show as we enter USA's 250th year!

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!

JAH'MAR COAKLEY (Assistant Director) is a choreographer, director, and teaching artist from Charleston, SC. His creative credits include *Pipeline* (Justice Theater Project), *The Little Mermaid* (Flowertown Players), and *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* (College of Charleston), along with numerous junior musical productions and student-centered works involving young artists at Charleston Academy of Musical Theatre and Musical Theater Center. He is also the founder of ArtsNeeds, a platform that continues to support the arts community by strengthening connections between creatives, employers, and job opportunities within the arts. You can keep up with ArtsNeeds on all platforms at @theartsneeds or by visiting www.artsneeds.com. As the Assistant Director of this production, Jah'Mar is excited to help bring this story to the Raleigh community and hopes it sparks meaningful conversation and reflection.

PRODUCTION TEAM

BIOGRAPHIES

ANGEL GRAYSON (Assistant Stage Manager) began volunteering as a teaching assistant with Raleigh Little Theatre and, though they now spend more time backstage and in the scene shop, remain passionate about theatre education. With some stage management experience from school, Angel is thrilled to be part of the 1776 team!

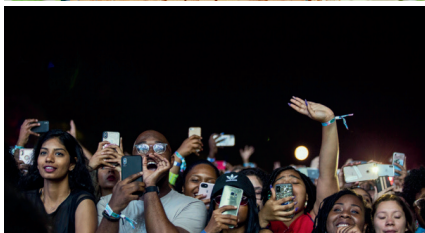
ALEX GROMO (Assistant Stage Manager) has been involved in theatre since his college years at Syracuse University where he played Creon in *Antigone* and Orgon in *Tartuffe*. After college, he moved behind the scenes in several community theaters up and down the east coast. Most recently, Alex has served as Stage Manager of RLT's *Divas!* and has done so for the past six years. He has also been a part of various crews including lights, sound, props and deck for many productions over the past several years.

GAVIN HAMILTON (Assistant Stage Manager) is Assistant Stage Managing for the second time with Raleigh Little Theatre. He is pursuing a degree in theatre. His dream is to be an actor. He has enjoyed taking his first acting classes at Raleigh Little Theatre. His favorite play he has seen so far is Raleigh Little Theatre's production of *Hadestown: Teen Edition*. IG: @actorgavinhamilton

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.

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.

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

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

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 (Resident Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager) brings all her experience to Raleigh Little Theatre to work with volunteers to create the costumes for each production. Past work includes designs for *Kinky Boots*, *Something Rotten*, *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, and *Witch*. among so many others. She is thrilled to contribute to this production and help bring its visual world to life.

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.

HELEN NOWLAN-WALLS (Development Manager) spent most of her life in the UK and Canada and moved to NC in 2023. She has been working in non-profit development for more than 20 years and has spent her career focussed on diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has a BA in English & Theatre and is thrilled to be returning to her theatre education and performance roots at RLT. Outside of work, Helen can be found driving her kids to their various rehearsals, wrangling her basset hound Daphne Honeybutt, watching murder mysteries, and playing video games whenever time allows it. Helen has been struck by lightning twice and hit by a double decker bus - all while riding a bicycle. Helen is no longer allowed to ride a bicycle.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

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, 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 a senior at NC State majoring in Business Administration with a minor in arts entrepreneurship. 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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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

SHERMAN EDWARDS (Music and Lyrics) was born in New York and taught American history at James Monroe High School. After earning an undergraduate degree in history, at New York University, he later did graduate work in history at Cornell University. He appeared as an actor in *My Sister Eileen* and the Broadway revue *Pins and Needles*. He began working as a pianist, playing for performers Lisa Kirk, Eddie Fisher and Mindy Carson. Later, he played in the bands of Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong. In the late 1950s, he began writing popular music, including the hit songs “Broken-Hearted Melody” (lyrics by Hal David), “See You in September” (music and lyrics co-written by Sid Wayne) and “Wonderful, Wonderful” (lyrics by Ben Raleigh). *1776* (for which he won a 1969 Tony Award) was his only Broadway score.

PETER STONE (Book) One of the most accomplished Broadway bookwriters, Stone graduated from Bard College and earned an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He began writing for CBS Radio and soon moved to writing for television, including the shows *Studio One*, *The Defenders* (for which he won an Emmy Award); *Asphalt Jungle* and *Espionage*. He has written the plays *Friend of the Family* and *Full Circle*. In addition to *1776*, his Broadway bookwriting credits include the musicals *Kean*; *Skyscraper*; *Two by Two*; *Sugar*; *Woman of the Year* (for which he won a 1981 Tony Award); *My One and Only*; *Grand Hotel* and *The Will Rogers Follies* (1991 Tony Award for Best Musical). Stone also wrote the screenplay for the film version of *1776*. His other screenplays include *Charade*; *Father Goose* (for which he won a 1964 Academy Award); *Mirage*; *Arabesque*; *Sweet Charity*; *The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3* and *Who Is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?*

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