


THE RUFFIANS'
**BURNING
BLUEBEARD**
CHICAGO'S HOLIDAY LEGEND!



PORCHLIGHT **ONLINE**

PORCHLIGHT
MUSIC **THEATRE**

20|21

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

MICHAEL WEBER
Artistic Director

JEANNIE LUKOW
Executive Director

presents



Featuring

**ANTHONY COURSER, PAM CHERMANSKY,
CROSBY SANDOVAL, JAY TORRENCE,
LEAH URZENDOWSKI & RYAN WALTERS**

Written by **JAY TORRENCE**
Direction by **HALENA KAYS**

This production was filmed during Porchlight Music Theatre's premiere with
The Ruffians at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, December 13 - 27, 2019.

Understudies for 2019 Production Nellie Reed: **KAITLYN ANDREWS**
Henry Gilfoil/Eddie Foy: **DAVE HONIGMAN**
Fancy Clown: **JAY TORRENCE**
Faerie Queen/Robert Murray: **RAWSON VINT**
Choreography by **LEAH URZENDOWSKI**
Additional 2019 Choreography by **ARIEL ETANA TRIUNFO**
Lighting Design **MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT**
Original Scenic & Costume Design **LIZZIE BRACKEN**
Scenic Design **JEFF KMIEC**
Costume Design **BILL MOREY**
Sound Design **MIKE TUTAJ**
Associate Sound Design **ROBERT HORNBOSTEL**
Original Properties Design **MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT & LIZZIE BRACKEN**
Properties Master **CAITLIN MCCARTHY**
Original Associate Properties Design **ARCHER CURRY**
Technical Direction **BEK LAMBRECHT**
Production Stage Management **JUSTINE B. PALMISANO**
Production Management **SAM MORYOUSSEF & ALEX RHYAN**
Video Production **MARTY HIGGENBOTHAM/THE STAGE CHANNEL**

The following artists significantly contributed to this performance and the play's creation:
Lizzie Bracken (set design, costume design, prop design), Dan Broberg (set design),
Maggie Fullilove-Nugent (lighting design), Leah Urzendowski (choreography) & Mike Tutaj (sound design).

The original 2011 cast included Anthony Courser, Dean Evans, Molly Plunk, Jay Torrence,
Leah Urzendowski & Ryan Walters

This performance runs 100 minutes without intermission. Please be aware this play contains flashing lights and some moments that may trigger an adverse reaction with sudden loud noises and sounds of violence.

Porchlight Music Theatre acknowledges the generosity of Allstate, the Bayless Family Foundation, DCASE Chicago, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, James P. and Brenda S. Grusecki Family Foundation, Illinois Arts Council Agency, The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at Prince, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, and all our donors who make our work possible.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*"If the pleasure is great, then the clown is forgiven.
He's allowed to be no good over and over."*

-Phillippe Gaulier

The Neo-Futurists originally supported the creation and first production of *Burning Bluebeard* in 2011 and we remain grateful to them and to all the folks who were part of its conception. It is a great honor to be given the opportunity to continue the tradition of sharing the story with Chicago audiences and a delight to collaborate with the talented and generous new friends at Porchlight. A special thanks to Michael Weber and Jeannie Lukow along with the entire Porchlight Music Theatre company for supporting the show and helping to make it available to online viewers to enjoy this holiday season.

The *Burning Bluebeard* cast and production team are a bunch of clowns who like to tell stories with our words, bodies, humor and heart. This is the first ever video offering of *Burning Bluebeard* made available to an audience...ever. Our hope is that during this ongoing challenging year - this online experience might offer a bit of respite and its sliver of joy. If this is your first time seeing the show, we hope you will bask in some moonlight. If you are a returning "magic cotton ball" lover - thank you for your continued love and support. Either way, know that we look forward to the day where we can come together in a beautiful theater building again and share the experience with you live and in person. We are truly honored to put it out there into the world once again this year. We miss you. Happy Holidays to you all. Thank you for being here.

JAY TORRENCE, Playwright; HELENA KAYS and all the Ruffians

A Few Common Elements Typically Found in 1903 Pantomimes

- ▶ Audience participation members of the audience are directly addressed by the onstage performers
- ▶ Adaptation of commonly known fairy tales and the use of good faeries, evil villains & well-intentioned heroes
- ▶ Silent scenes or "dumb shows" consisting only of dancing, physical movement & gestures
- ▶ Use of popular songs of the era. Pantomimes incorporated songs and tunes that were recognizable to the audience but with rewritten lyrics to surprise and amuse
- ▶ Freestanding scenes in slapstick style
- ▶ Cross-dressing (performers commonly portrayed various gender roles for comedic and dramatic impact)
- ▶ Use of risque, potentially offensive jokes and double entendres
- ▶ A transformation scene where the faerie queen magically transports the characters to safety

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In December of 2012, I attended a performance of a musical play that, the year before, had been highly recommended in its debut production at the intimate Neo-Futurist Theatre in Andersonville. “Enthralling,” “pitch-perfect,” “heart-wrenching,” “hilarious” were some of the words associated with this story of the infamous 1903 staging of the family musical *Mr. Bluebeard* at Chicago’s former Iroquois Theatre, now the site of the James M. Nederlander Theatre, on Randolph Street.

I had some slight knowledge of that turn-of-the-last-century event, particularly the lore surrounding the participation of star comedian Eddie Foy in addressing the audience from the stage in an effort to stave off panic and of the resulting improvement of fire safety laws that were established as a result of the tragedy.

But I was not prepared for the impact this astonishing group of all-around clowns, acrobats, and poetic actor-dancers called “The Ruffians” had in store for us. Profoundly moved by the production, I urged everyone I knew to go see this fantastic, made-in-Chicago creation. The next year, we brought our entire Porchlight staff to the production as our annual holiday outing. In 2019, we invited The Ruffians to perform their breathtaking creation on the stage of Porchlight Music Theatre, and it is the archival video recording of that production that we bring to you here, in this time when we are prevented from gathering to perform the show for you live. So, with thanks to Jay, Halena and all The Ruffians, we present Porchlight’s holiday gift to you—the opportunity to bask in the magic that is *Burning Bluebeard*.

For those of you about to experience this production for the first time, all I can say is, “I envy you.”

Happy holidays to all,



MICHAEL WEBER, Artistic Director, Porchlight Music Theatre


Artist In-Residence
The Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to be a member of the vibrant Ruth Page Center for the Arts performing arts community, and an Artist In-Residence. An incubator of artistic energy and excellence, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts carries forward the vision and mission of its founder, legendary dance icon Ruth Page, to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.

- BLACK LIVES MATTER -

Porchlight believes Black Lives Matter and stands with others in denouncing racism, bigotry, hate and intolerance, and in reaffirming our total commitment to **equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)** as we advance our mission both on and off the stage. We have dedicated ourselves to the education and work necessary to make positive change within our organization and in our industry. We have begun EDI education for staff and board, and we are auditing materials, practices, policies, and procedures for ways we can be a more equitable and inclusive company. We will have a multi-year EDI action plan in place by the end of 2020. Additionally, we are forming an EDI Committee that will give feedback and recommendations on all our work in this area. We encourage you to follow our goals, progress and ways to get involved at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org.

BIOS



PAMELA CHERMANSKY (*Fancy Clown*) is a Chicago Theatre Artist who is "ON FIRE" about bringing back the role of Fancy Clown for her *SIXTH SCORCHING YEAR!!* She currently works as a clown for Vaudeville Chicago and Healthy Humor. Pamela worked for many years as a mime artist and teacher and is honored to have spent several years in what she considers the magical orbit of the late Marcel Marceau, who is also the inspiration for her clown, Madame Bustiere! Her work as a mime, actor, clown and teacher has taken her across the United States as well as China, France, Taiwan and Mexico.



ANTHONY COURSER (*Henry Gilfoil*) was last seen clowning around the country for New Belgium Brewery's Beer and Bike festival, Tour De Fat, or you may have caught him as Princess, the drunken elephant, in the Jeff Recommended *Iywild* on the Hypocrites stage. It was his fourth collaboration with Halena Kays, Jay Torrence and Ryan Walters following *Burning Bluebeard*, *Daredevils* and *Daredevils' Hamlet* with the Neo-Futurists. Also on the Neo-Futurists stage: *Picked Up*, *The Fool Returns To His Chair*, and guest starring as Abraham Lincoln in "Anthony Courser Guest Stars As Abraham Lincoln" in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind*. He was also set designer for *Analog*, Barrel of Monkeys emeritus class of 2001, Anthony is a graduate of Dell Arte International School For Physical Theatre; he studied Panchinko Clowning with Sue Morrison at the Canadian Clown Institute. Also he has been named an artistic associate of The Neo-Futurists since 2012.



CROSBY SANDOVAL (*The Faerie Queen*) is a circus performer and circus arts teacher specializing in Trapeze, Chinese Pole and Hair Hanging. When not touring under the big top, they can be found jello wrestling your morals or snatching cookies from your larder. This is

Crosby's second year and first pandemic with The Ruffians and they would like to thank Jay and Molly and Halena for this magical opportunity. Enjoy some moonlight.



JAY TORRENCE (Playwright, *Robert Murray, u/s Fancy Clown*) is a Ruffian and the playwright who created *Burning Bluebeard*, *Roustabout!*, *The Great Circus Trainwreck* and *Iywild*. As a former Neo-Futurist Artistic Director and ensemble member, Torrence has worked over a decade writing, directing and performing new works that debuted here in Chicago and toured throughout the nation. Other Theater Credits include: 500 Clown, Theater Oobleck, Akvavit Theatre, The Actor's Gymnasium, Theater on the Lake, The Hypocrites, Redmoon Theater, Woolly Mammoth, Geva, Shakespeare Theatre Company (DC), The New Victory Theater (NY), The Actors Theatre of Louisville and Edmonton Actors Theatre. Internationally, this is the 13th production of *Burning Bluebeard*.



LEAH URZENDOWSKI (Original Choreography, *Nellie Reed*) is a founding member of The Ruffians, and an ensemble member with the Chicago Neo-Futurists since 2011, where she regularly performs in the late night show *The Infinite Wrench*. Most recently, Leah is the 2020 Jeff

Award Recipient for Choreography in *All Quiet On The Western Front* (Red Tape Theatre), and director of *Buttcracker Burlesque*. Some Chicago credits include Jeff recommended *Mr. Burns* (Theatre Wit); *The? Unicorn? Hour?*; *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind*, *Miss Neo Pageant* (The Neo-Futurists); *Burning Bluebeard* (The Ruffians); *500 Clown Trapped*, *500 Clown Frankenstein*, *500 Clown Macbeth* (500 Clown); *Moby Dick*, *Dustbowl Gothic* (The Building Stage); *Hunchback* (Redmoon). Choreography and movement direction include *The Magic Play* (Goodman), *Lord of The Flies* (Steppenwolf), *Iywild* (Hypocrites), *Miss Neo Pageant* (The Neo-Futurists), and *Burning Bluebeard* (The Ruffians, The Neo-Futurists). TV and film include *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Fire*, *Operator*, and *Beats*. Leah is a teaching artist specializing in physical theatre and clown, and piloted a Neo-Futurists residency at Georgetown University and The United States Naval Academy. She received her BFA from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and is represented by Paonessa Talent.

BIOS (CONT.)



RYAN WALTERS (*Eddie Foy*) is a founding member of The Ruffians and appeared in the original production of *Burning Bluebeard* at the Neo-Futurists. Ryan is an alumnus of the Neo-Futurists theater company where he performed regularly in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* and served as Artistic Director from 2009-2012. With the Neos he conceived and co-created *Picked Up*, *Daredevils* and *Daredevils' Hamlet*. An emeritus member of Barrel of Monkeys, he taught and performed in their school program, and performed in the public celebration of their students' work, *That's Weird, Grandma*. Other credits include: *Life Finds a Way* (InGen), *Patriots*, *The Fool Returns to his Chair*, *Roustabout*, *Fake Lake*, *Beer The Musical!*, *44 Plays for 44 Presidents* (Neo-Futurists), *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and *Ivywild* (The Hypocrites). Much love to Dina & Emma!



KAITLYN ANDREWS (*u/s Nellie Reed*) is a performer, writer, and teaching artist here in Chicago. She is a graduate of Northwestern University's theatre program, a company member and teaching artist with The PlayMakers Laboratory Theatre, and an instructor of circus arts with The Actors Gymnasium. This is Kaitlyn's second time working on *Burning Bluebeard*, and she is so grateful to have the opportunity to play with all these clowns, and share this story here at Porchlight.



DAVE HONIGMAN (*u/s Henry Gilfoil/Eddie Foy*) was one of the last Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey circus clowns in "Out of This World," the closing tour. His credits since include *Burning Bluebeard* (Neo-Futurists, Ruffians), *Pardoned by Grace* (Graham Family Films), *The*

Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Red Theater Chicago), *Monday Night Live* (iO Chicago), *Promo Code: Family* (Second City Conservatory), and actor/writer with *Proper Clown* and *Overqualified* (iOCN). In association with The Clown School of Los Angeles, Dave became a member of the award-winning theatre company Four Clowns, and was a founding member of The Innocents. Many thanks to his family, Maddie Baird, Gray Talent Group, the Ruffians, the Neo-Futurists, and Porchlight Music Theatre. Connect with Dave @HonigClown.



RAWSON VINT (*u/s Faerie Queen/Robert Murray*) is a graduate of DePaul University's Acting Conservatory. He has worked with various Chicago theatre companies as a teaching artist, musician and performer including Second City, PlayMakers Lab and Lookingglass Theatre. Excited to be apart of the production of *Burning Bluebeard*.

HALENA KAYS (Director) is a founding member of the artistic collaborative, The Ruffians, former member of the Big Apple Circus Clown Care unit, past artistic director of The Hypocrites and former co-artistic curator

for Theater on the Lake. Halena is an Artistic Associate with the Neo-Futurists where she directed *Comfortable Shoes*, *Pop/Waits*, *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*, *Burning Bluebeard*, *Daredevils*, *Daredevils' Hamlet* and *Fake Lake*. Selected Chicago directing credits: *Endgame*, *Ivywild*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (The Hypocrites); *The Magic Play* (The Goodman), *Lord of the Flies* (Steppenwolf); *On Clover Road* (American Blues Theater); *Feast* (part of a collaborative directing effort with The Albany Park Theatre Project and The Goodman). Regionally Halena has directed *The Magic Play* at The Olney Theater Center, The Actor's Theater of Louisville, Portland Center Stage and Syracuse Stage, *Love Song* (Nashville Story Garden), and *Secretary* (Nashville Rep's Ingram New Works Festival). Halena has been nominated for Joseph Jefferson awards for Best Supporting Actress, Best Direction, and Best Production, named one of the top 50 "players" in Chicago theater by *NewCity*, is a recipient of the prestigious 3Arts award and received a signed letter from Mr. Rogers saying she was "special" in 1978. She is a UT-Austin and Northwestern grad, and assistant professor at Northwestern University. Proud member, SDC.

ARIEL ETANA TRIUNFO (Additional 2019 Choreography) is a Chicago-based choreographer, writer, and performer. Choreography credits include: *A Man of No Importance* (Columbia College Chicago), *Fast Food Chain* (Adventure Stage Chicago), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Refuge Theatre Project), and choreographic works for Utah Festival Opera, MODAS Dance Training Program, and Nevada Ballet Theatre. Some favorite performance credits: *An American in Paris* (Drury Lane Theatre), *Cypsy*, *Porchlight Revisits: Can-Can* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Spamalot* (Mercury Theater Chicago), *West Side Story* (Utah Festival Opera), *Boy on the Roof* (The School at Jacob's Pillow), and *The Threepenny Opera* (Greer Garson Theatre). Ariel received her B.A. in Musical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago. arieltriunfo.com @etana_ariel

JEFFREY D. KMIEC' (Scenic Designer) is an award-winning Chicago-based scenic designer. His designs have been seen at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Timeline Theatre, American Players Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Raven Theatre, The Artistic Home, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Heritage Theatre Festival and The Children's Theatre of Charlotte. He received three consecutive Equity Jeff Awards for his designs on *The Little Mermaid* (Paramount Theatre) (2017), *Deathtrap* (Drury Lane Theatre) (2016) and *Les Miserables* (The Paramount Theatre) (Co-Design with Kevin Depinet in 2015). Jeffrey received his MFA from the University of Virginia and is a member of USA 829.

BILL MOREY' (Costume Designer) has designed over two dozen productions at Porchlight. He is a 16-time Jeff nominee, and has received the Jeff Award for *Nine*, *The King and I*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Dreamgirls* (Porchlight Music Theatre). Proud member of USA 829. www.billmorey.com

LIZZIE BRACKEN (Original Scenic and Costume Design) is a company member with The Ruffians and

BIOS (CONT.)

has enjoyed working on this beautiful show since its inception. Chicago credits include *The Magic Play* (Goodman Theatre); *Lord of the Flies*, *The Book Thief*, *Blacktop Sky* and *See What I Wanna See* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *On Clover Road* (American Blues Theater); *Endgame*, *Ivywild* and *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (The Hypocrites); *Pop/Waits* and *44 plays for 44 Presidents* (The Neo-Futurists). Regional Credits include *Breath of Life* (Portland Center Stage); *The Magic Play* (Actors Theatre of Louisville, Portland Center Stage, and Olney Theatre Center). Lizzie received her Bachelors of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame, and MFA from The University of Texas and Austin.

MAGGIE FULILOVE-NUGENT (Lighting Designer) Chicago: *The Magic Play* (Goodman Theatre); *Endgame*, *Six Characters in Search of An Author* and *The Threepenny Opera* (The Hypocrites); *Burning Bluebeard* (The Ruffians); *The Orchestra*, *Kokkola* and *Red & Green* (Akavit Theatre); *Roustabout*, *Fake Lake*, *Daredevil's Hamlet* and *44 Plays for 44 Presidents* (Neo-Futurists). Maggie is the Production Manager at TimeLine Theatre and proud member of The Chicago Green Theatre Alliance. She is also a founding collective member of The Ruffians and an emerita company member of Playmaker's Laboratory Theatre. She would like to thank her friends, colleagues, and family for always supporting her in this crazy career.

ROBERT HORNBOSTEL (Associate Sound Designer) Porchlight: *A Chorus Line*, *Gentleman's Guide...*, *Gypsy*, *Memphis*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Billy Elliot*, *In the Heights*, *Dreamgirls*, *End of the Rainbow*, *Far From Heaven*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Side Show*, *...Forum* and *Porchlight Revisits Babes in Arms*. Robert is a freelance sound designer, audio engineer, composer and educator based in Chicago. He graduated from Illinois State University, and has recently lectured with Fort Lewis College, University of Nebraska, Western Illinois University, and USITT. Selections of his previous work can be found at TechmagicDesigns.com and makebelieve.fm.

SAM MORYOUSSEF (Production Manager) is pleased to have the opportunity to be back with the Ruffians for another production of *Burning Bluebeard*. He recently moved back to Chicago from North Carolina where he was working as the Assistant Technical Director at Elon University. Sam has had, and continues to have, the pleasure of working in production management, lighting, and carpentry, with several theatres throughout the city, including Lookingglass Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare. Currently he is also working at Lifeline Theatre as the Master Electrician/ AV Supervisor. Sam is thrilled to be back in Chicago and working with such a welcoming group of artists and craftsmen.

CAITLIN MCCARTHY (Properties Master) is a Props and Costume Designer based in Chicago. In the days of yore, Caitlin designed the props and costumes for *The Gulf* (About Face), suspended 50+ lamps from the ceiling and designed the props for *Every Brilliant Thing* (Windy City Playhouse) and designed props for *Sophisticated Ladies* (Porchlight). Caitlin is also a Production Designer for film and the Director of Production at First Floor Theater. Learn more at caitlinmccarthy.net.

JUSTINE B. PALMISANO (Stage Manager) is a Collective Member of The Ruffians and incredibly grateful to spend her 7th holiday season stage managing *Burning Bluebeard*. Previous work includes *Eclipsed* (Pegasus Theater), *Don't Look Back/Must Look Back* (Pivot Arts), *A Wrinkle in Time* (Lifeline Theatre), *Open Season* (The Gift: 4802), and *Aristophanesathon*, *You On The Moors Now*, *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *All Our Tragic*, *Endgame*, *Into the Woods*, *12 Nights*, *Ivywild*, *Pirates of Penzance/The Mikado*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *Romeo Juliet*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Sophocles Seven Sicknesses* (The Hypocrites). By day she is a Physical Instructor for the Chicago Park District. For useful mirth and salutary woe.

TRISTAN CHIRUVOLU (Assistant Stage Manager) is so grateful to be a part of this story for the first time. He has previously stage managed for Chicago theatre companies such as The Hypocrites, Lifeline Theatre, and (re)discover theatre. He would like to take this opportunity to thank his family, his baby, his roommates, and Grookey for all that they do. Tristan is a proud graduate of Northwestern University.

JEANNIE LUKOW (Executive Director) is a founding member of Porchlight Music Theatre's board of directors serving on the board for 19 years, six of them as its president. She was thrilled to join the staff in September 2014 as the company's first Executive Director. Prior to taking the helm at Porchlight, Jeannie ran Bespoke Cuisine, one of Chicago's leading cooking party venues, which she co-founded/owned for 12 years. Before the hospitality/food business, Jeannie built a 15-year career in marketing communications, much of it spent in association management. Her most recent position was as Managing Director of Marketing Communications for the National Association of Realtors, one of the nation's largest trade associations. She is a native Michigander and a graduate of Michigan State University.

MICHAEL WEBER (Artistic Director) most recently directed *Sunset Boulevard* and *Gypsy* for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of *1776* and *Broadway by the Decade* for Porchlight Online. His productions of *Gypsy*, *End of the Rainbow*, *Side Show*, *...Forum*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Pal Joey* and *Assassins* at Porchlight, *Grand Hotel* at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place and *She Loves Me* at Theatre at the Center were each nominated for the Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Production—Musical. Other directing credits include *Living the History-125 Years of the Auditorium Theatre* (starring Patti Lupone, John Mahoney, and stars of Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Jeffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and others), *Fifth of July* and *Talley's Folly* at the Oak Park Festival Theatre, *The Petrified Forest* at Theatre at the Center, *Beauty and the Beast* at Marriott Theatre, *Over the River and Through the Woods* at Mercury Theater, and *Cirque du Symphony* at Sears Center Arena. The recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards, he has written and directed fifteen Joseph Jefferson Awards ceremonies. Weber's regional acting credits include *The Merry Widow* and *The Sound of Music* at Lyric Opera, *42nd Street* at Paramount, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Gypsy* (both starring Patti LuPone) at Ravinia, Disney's *My Son Pinocchio* at First Stage Milwaukee, *Around the World in 80 Days* at Cleveland Playhouse, *The Winter's Tale*

BIOS (CONT.)

and *Henry V* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *Angel Street* at First Folio Shakespeare, and *The Gifts of the Magi* at Indiana Repertory. He served previously as artistic director of Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place (now The Broadway Playhouse) and Theatre at the Center. Michael is proud to serve as a pledge host on WTTW, Channel 11.

*Denotes member of USA, United Scenic Artists

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MARCH 20!

CHICAGO SINGS
ROCK & ROLL
BROADWAY
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PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

From *Bye Bye Birdie* to *Jagged Little Pill*, Porchlight brings Chicago's music theatre stars together, virtually, to celebrate TWO American originals in its annual fundraising concert - Broadway AND Rock & Roll! Don't miss this salute to the Broadway musicals influenced by and honoring Rock & Roll!

PORCHLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG

2019 BURNING BLUEBEARD **PRODUCTION STAFF**

THE RUFFIANS' BURNING BLUEBEARD

Artistic Director	MICHAEL WEBER
Director	HALENA KAYS
Choreographer	LEAH URZENDOWSKI
Additional 2019 Choreography	ARIEL ETANA TRIUNFO
Lighting Design	MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT
Assistant Lighting Designer	DAVID GOODMAN-EDENBERG
Original Scenic & Costume Design	LIZZIE BRACKEN
Scenic Designer	JEFF KMIEC*
Costume Designer	BILL MOREY*
Sound Designer	MIKE TUTAJ*
Associate Sound Designer	ROBERT HORNBOSTEL
Sound Assistant	MATT CHASE
Original Properties Designers	MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT & LIZZIE BRACKEN
Original Associate Properties Designer	ARCHER CURRY
Production Managers	SAM MORYOUSSEF & ALEX RHYAN
Technical Directors	BEK LAMBRECHT
Production Stage Manager	JUSTINE B. PALMISANO
Assistant Stage Manager	TRISTAN CHIRUVOLU
Wardrobe Supervisor	SAMANTHA TREBLE
Audio Engineer	JAMIE DAVIS
Master Electrician	RACHEL WEST
Properties Master	CAITLYN MCCARTHY

THE RUFFIANS' STAFF

Executive Producer	JAY TORRENCE
Production Manager	SAM MORYOUSSEF
Associate Production Manager	PATRICK FRIES

THE RUFFIANS COLLECTIVE

**LIZZIE BRACKEN, ANTHONY COURSER, PAM CHERMANKSY,
MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT, HALENA KAYS, JUSTINE B. PALMISANO,
MOLLY PLUNK, JAY TORRENCE, LEAH URZENDOWSKI & RYAN WALTERS**

The Ruffians would like to thank: Porchlight Music Theatre, Michael Weber, Jeannie Lukow, Bernie & Kathy Torrence, Ernie & Melody Blood, Dean Evans, Molly Plunk, Lizzie Bracken, Maggie Fullilove-Nugent, Mike Tutaj, Mikey Moran, Archer Curry, Kurt Chiang, Megan Mercier, Victoria Johnson, Mike Spatafora, Joseph Schupbach, Hilda Annie Coulson, Ryan & Voni Torrence, The Anna Miller Generational Trust, Emily & Christopher J. Nugent, Sam & Betsy Torrence, Dan & Shelly Ross, Agnes Nancy Simpson and Nate & Christie Torrence.

**Denotes member of USA, United Scenic Artists*

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE STAFF

Executive Director **JEANNIE LUKOW**

Artistic Director **MICHAEL WEBER**

Development Director **LISA TORGERSON**

Development Associate **MANDY KATZ**

Production & Operations Director **ALEX RHYAN**

Casting & Company Manager **CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK**

Audience Services Manager **AUGUST COMPTON**

Education Director **REBECCA SINGER**

Marketing Manager **AUSTIN PACKARD**


Marketing & Media Representatives **SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations**
JAMES JULIANO &
JILL EVANS LA PENNA

Finance Manager **DAN THOMAS**

Program Design **REMINGTON CLEVE**

EDUCATION

Porchlight Music Theatre Education Announces Spring Schedule of Exciting Upcoming Classes for all Ages and Skills - In-Person or via zoom!



Broadway BASICS

Ages 7-10, Saturdays, February 6 - May 1, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm *

Enter the world of music, drama, dance, writing, and more while practicing teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Actors will be introduced to their actor tools, with lots of time for playing games and making new friends. At the end of the session join us for a final performance to celebrate all your young actors' work!



Musical THEATRE BOOTCAMP

Ages 11-13, Saturdays, February 6 - May 1, 1:00 - 3:00 pm *

Intermediate actors build on the basics to learn about building an ensemble, singing in harmony, and creating more challenging characters. Actors will write their own story paired with musical theatre classics and new hits to share with family and friends at the end of the term!



Advanced MUSIC THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Ages 14-17, Sundays, February 7 - May 2, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm **

Our most advanced actors will tackle challenging choreography, music, and scene work to create a final showcase that highlights both ensemble and individual work. In the spring, our actors work on a full professional script and perform on our main stage set with full sound, costuming, and lights.

All youth classes meet at the Menomonee Club Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton St., in Lincoln Park, for small in-person classes.

We will be checking temperatures, wearing masks and staying socially distant throughout class, but if you'd prefer to join us via zoom, that's an option as well.

More information, as well as registration and our scholarship application may be found <https://porchlightmusictheatre.org/events/youth-classes-fall-2020>.

**no class Saturday, April 3 // **no class Sunday, April 4*

Professional Classes continue completely on zoom and there's tons of great options!

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Each class meets for six weeks. Use code **GOPRO for 15% off at checkout**

Any Sondheim lovers can join us for the last class in our Sondheim Series: **Look, I Made a Hat** via zoom to learn about the great composer's process, collaborators and history. Each class explores a different musical and lets you peek behind the curtain!

Porchlight is also available to come to your child's classroom with our signature literacy residency, **Sing Out!**, classroom workshops and production support.

For more information or to register for any of these programs go to PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/school or reach out to Education Director **Rebecca Singer** at rebecca@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

Porchlight Music Theatre is the award-winning center for music theatre in Chicago. Through live performance, youth education and community outreach we impact thousands of lives each season, bringing the magic of musicals to our theatre home at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts in the city's Gold Coast and to neighborhoods across the city. Porchlight has built a national reputation for boldly reimaging classic musicals, supporting new works and young performers, and showcasing Chicago's most notable music theatre artists, all through the intimate and powerful theatrical lens of the "Chicago Style."

Now in our 26th season, our quarter-century production history includes more than 70 mainstage works with 15 Chicago premieres and five world premieres. Porchlight's commitment to the past, present and future of music theatre led the company to develop the Porchlight Revisits and New Faces Sing Broadway program series, both quickly becoming audience favorites.

Porchlight's education and outreach programs serve schools, youth of all ages and skill levels, and community organizations, and we love our ongoing collaboration with Chicago Youth Centers. We annually award dozens of full scholarships and hundreds of free tickets to ensure accessibility and real engagement with this uniquely American art form.

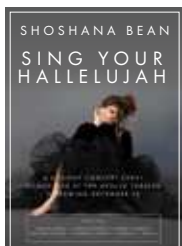
The company's many honors include 178 Joseph Jefferson Award (Jeff) nominations and 45 Jeff awards, as well as 33 Black Theatre Alliance (BTA) nominations and 12 BTA awards. This past season, Porchlight Music Theatre "graduated" to the Large Theatre tier of the Joseph Jefferson Equity Awards, stiffening our competition for the Jeff committee's recognition. Porchlight celebrated eight nominations in both technical and artistic categories and was awarded three Jeffs for the Ensemble; Jermaine Hill, music direction and Lorenzo Rush Jr., performer in a revue, for *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies*.

Through the global pandemic, Porchlight has emerged as one of Chicago's leaders in virtual programming, quickly launching a host of free offerings like *Sondheim@90* Roundtables, *Movie Musical Mondays*, *Porchlight by Request: Command Performances*, and *WPMT: Classic Musicals from the Golden Age of Radio*. For the 2020-2021 season, Porchlight has announced a full fall schedule of all-new ticketed virtual programs including *New Faces Sing Broadway: 1987*, *Broadway by the Decade*, as well as collaborations with LA Theater Works, and MUCH more coming in the new year!

Thank you for being here and supporting Porchlight Music Theatre. We know you have a variety of online entertainment options, and we appreciate you being a part of the Porchlight audience family as we navigate our way, together, to an exciting new tomorrow for Chicago's home for music theatre.

COMING UP FROM PORCHLIGHT

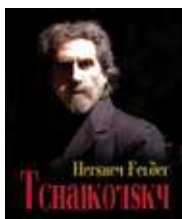
Our VIRTUAL Fall Season Continues with NEW shows and the return of fan favorites!



Shoshana Bean in Sing Your Hallelujah

Available for Streaming: Saturday, Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. CST

After sold out engagements in 2018 and 2019 at Harlem's world-famous Apollo Theater, Shoshana Bean returns to the legendary stage, this time for a global audience. *Sing Your Hallelujah* reimagines the Christmas television special of long ago. With fresh interpretations of holiday classics, intimate collaborations with special guests and honest reflections of an unprecedented year in history, Bean gets to the heart of what is essential: connection, tradition, and the power of love.

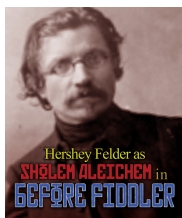


Hershey Felder Presents

TCHAIKOVSKY - LIVE from FLORENCE

Available for Streaming: December 20 - 27

Ring in the holidays with a special performance of *Tchaikovsky*. Based on the original *Our Great Tchaikovsky* and featuring an extended focus on "The Nutcracker" ballet in honor of Christmas as well as Tchaikovsky's life in Florence, Italy. *Tchaikovsky* will be filmed live on location where the great composer actually lived and worked in Florence.



Hershey Felder Presents

Before Fiddler - LIVE from FLORENCE

Available for Streaming: February 7 - 14, 2021

Before the beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, there was author **Sholem Aleichem** and his beloved character of "Teyve the Milkman." Before the beloved songs "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Matchmaker" and others, there was the music of the old world... a music that imitated talking, laughing, weeping and singing, where musicians didn't just make music, they spoke to you in song - Klezmer. **Hershey Felder** plays an array of characters and music from the "Old World," from a Teyveh, to a Yente, to a Rabbi, to a newlywed daughter, to many more.



New Faces Sing Broadway 1961

Available for Streaming: February 12 - March 14, 2021

Jeff-Award winner **Kelvin Rolston, Jr.** hosts the latest virtual installment of Porchlight's popular music series. Rolston and a roster of up-and-coming talents celebrate the 1961 Broadway season with trivia, sing-alongs and performances of hit songs from **Carnival!**, **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying**, **Stop the World - I Want to Get Off** and other musicals from the 1961 Broadway season filmed at the historic Studebaker Theatre. *Performances, dates, times, performers, etc. may change without notice.*

ONGOING VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

Porchlight continues to be a leader in FREE virtual programming



WPMT PRESENTS: CLASSIC MUSICALS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

FREE! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m. CT

WPMT PRESENTS continues this winter with more classic musicals from the Golden Age of radio. Artistic Director Michael Weber introduces musicals from the early to mid 20th century as they were heard on network radio programs such as *The Lux Radio Theatre* and *The Theatre Guild on the Air*, often featuring members of the original Broadway casts. A bonus feature to some of the series' episodes are special guests joining Weber in conversation about that day's broadcast. Past guests include Mitchell J. Fain (discussing *Strike Up the Band*) and Christie Chiles Twillie (discussing *Carmen Jones*) and upcoming guests include Stephen Cole (discussing *Girl Crazy*) and Tom Mula (discussing *Phantom of the Opera*).

Tuesday, Dec. 8: ***The Lemon Drop Kid*** - 1951 (The Lux Radio Theatre) starring **Bob Hope, Marilyn Maxwell & William Conrad**

Tuesday, Dec. 15: ***Babes in Toyland*** - 1949 (The Chicago Theatre of the Air) starring **Mary Francis Desmond, Jonathan Holt, John Barclay, Butler Manville, Sonda Cair, Elmira Ressler, Everett Clark & Colonel Robert McCormick**

Tuesday, Dec. 22: ***Meet Me in St. Louis*** - 1946 (The Lux Radio Theatre) starring **Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Tom Drake & Gale Gordon**. Guest Interview: **Angela Ingersoll**, star of Porchlight's *End of the Rainbow*

Tuesday, Dec. 29: ***On Your Toes*** - 1952 (The Railroad Hour) starring **Marion Bell, Gordon MacRae & Fritz Feld**

Tuesday, Jan. 5: ***Alexander's Ragtime Band*** - 1940 (The Lux Radio Theatre) starring **Alice Faye, Ray Milland & Robert Preston**

Tuesday, Jan 12: ***Casbah*** - 1949 (Screen Directors Playhouse) starring **Tony Martin, Märta Torén, Herbert Butterfield & Lurene Tuttle**

Tuesday, Jan 19: ***Around the World in Eighty Days*** - 1946 (The Mercury Summer Theatre of the Air) starring **Orson Welles, Mary Healy & Arthur Margetson**. Guest Interview: **Ray Kelly** owner and administrator of Wellesnet, widely regarded as the leading online source of information about the life, career and work of Orson Welles

MOVIE MUSICAL MONDAY

FREE! Every Monday at 7 p.m. CT

Each week a host and special guest join in a zoom conversation about a musical movie with musical and movie fans. It's like a book club for movies where attendees are asked to watch the movie before the chat and come prepared for an hour of conversation, fun facts and more.

Monday, Dec. 7: ***Damn Yankees*** with host **Jenna Schoppe** & special guest **Donterrio Johnson**

Monday, Dec. 14: ***Sweet Charity*** with host **Rosie Schultz** & guest **Tom Vendafreddo**

Monday, Dec. 21: ***White Christmas*** with host **David Girolmo** & guest **Patrick Tierney**

Monday, Jan. 4: ***Bedknobs & Broomsticks*** with host **Heidi Kettenring** & guest **Jon Steinhagen**



ONGOING VIRTUAL OFFERINGS (CONT.)

Porchlight continues to be a leader in FREE virtual programming

PORCHLIGHT **BY REQUEST**

PORCHLIGHT BY REQUEST

via Facebook, debut times vary

Fans of music theatre and others may request a show tune with a dedication and, in a "Command Performance," a favorite Porchlight artist customizes this song. Past Porchlight By Request videos have been dedicated to family members, front line responders, teachers and others.

More information and links are available at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org

Porchlight may change any of the above information for productions, artists, etc.



SONDHEIM @ 90 ROUNDTABLE WITH HOST ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL WEBER

FREE! Every Saturday at 7 p.m. CT

Stephen Sondheim's storied career is discussed other Saturday at 7 p.m. CT Central with special guests from the worlds of Chicago's theater scene, Broadway and national music theatre presenters.

Saturday, Dec 5: **Road Show** with special guests **Deanna Dunagan, Chris Jones & Michael Mahler**

Saturday, Dec. 12: **A Little Night Music** with special guests **Brianna Berger, Nick Bowling & Christie Chiles Twillie**

Saturday, Dec. 19: **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** with special guests **Anika Chapin, Ross Lehman & Linda Madonia**

Saturday, Dec. 26: **The Frogs** with special guests **Victoria Bussert, Christie Chiles Twillie & Christopher Pazdernik**

Saturday, Jan 2: **Assassins** with special guests **Anika Chapin, Jermaine Hill & Stef Tovar**

Performances, dates, times, performers, etc. may change without notice.



Porchlight presents some complementary content, with a cocktail: **I'll Drink to That**. A new episode of this series hosted by **Porchlight Board Member and Hearty Boy Steve McDonagh** debuts each Friday before a Sondheim episode. McDonagh, in his own original way, shares a cocktail recipe, pairing it with that week's Sondheim @ 90 with host Michael Weber's episode.

*More information and links are available at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org
Porchlight may change any of the above information for productions, artists, etc, due to new updates from the CDC or local government regarding up-to-date COVID-19 precautions and instructions.*

ANNUAL SUPPORT

Porchlight Music Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, corporations, and foundations who generously gave gifts of \$100 or more to **The Annual Fund, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Cash Reserves Challenge Grant, The Rachel Rockwell Memorial Fund for Fierce Women Behind the Table, The George K. Sargent III Cash Reserve Fund, and The Christopher N. Tisone Memorial Stage Management Fund** during the period: November 1, 2019 through November 16, 2020. For a full list of all contributions for FY19, please consult our website at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Our-Contributors.

We also thank those patrons whose contributions to the post-show collections supported youth programs and scholarships to Porchlight’s “Make Your Own Musical” Youth Summer Camp.

For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight, please contact **Lisa Torgerson**, Development Director, at lisa@porchlightmusictheatre.org or call **312.593.2643**. We endeavor to make this listing as accurate as possible. Should you detect an error, please contact Development Associate Mandy Katz at mandy@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

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