# PORCHLIGHT REVISITS





21|22

# AWARD WINNING PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE RETURNS WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES AND A MUST-SEE 2021-22 SEASON

# MAINSTAGE







# PORCHLIGHT REVISITS

A festival of Broadway and Off-Broadway's rarely seen music theatre gems fully staged in limited engagements.







# Single Tickets and Subscriptions On Sale Now!



All performances take place in Chicago's Gold Coast at The Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn.



PorchlightMusicTheatre.org



MICHAEL WEBER
Artistic Director

JEANNIE LUKOW
Executive Director

presents



# PORCHLIGHT REVISITS MUNICIPAL REVISITS



A Musical Comedy Book, Music and Lyrics by **DAN GOGGIN**†

Direction by
MICHELLE LAUTO

Music Direction by KAILEY ROCKWELL:

Choreography by **JENNA SCHOPPE** 

Starring
MISSY AGUILAR:, CYNTHIA CARTER:, LANDREE FLEMMING:,
REBECCA KEESHIN:, KYRA LEIGH:

Costume Design RA

RACHEL SYPNIEWSKI:

Lighting Design
Sound Design

RACHEL WEST

Asst. Stage Manager & Wardrobe Manager

MATTHEW R. CHASE<sup>†</sup>
ANDREA ENGER<sup>‡</sup>

Production Stage Manager

CAITLIN BODY:

Production Manager

JENNIFER APARICIO

Asst. Stage Manager & Audio Assistant

GIANNI CARCAGNO#

† (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); Ť (they, them, theirs); Ţ (any, with respect); \* (Actors' Equity Assoc.)



Official hotel for PMT's 2021 - 2022 Season



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Special Thank You Workshop 4200/Michael Vasquez & Ryan & Spaeth, Inc.

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, MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at Prince, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, and all our donors who make our work possible.

NUNSENSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

www.concordtheatricals.com

### LAND RECOGNITION

Porchlight recognizes the history of oppression and injustice that has resulted in ongoing disparities for those who were brought here against their will or migrated from their homeland, as well as for those who have lived on this land for centuries. Truth and acknowledgment are critical in building mutual respect and authentic connections across all barriers of heritage and difference. This statement is one small step in acknowledging the history that brought us to this place and time, and to help us seek understanding of our place within that history:

"With humility and respect for the original caretakers of the land, we recognize that at its performance home at The Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Porchlight Music Theatre inhabits the land of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations, and many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox who also call this land their home. We honor the sacred lands of all indigenous American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and First Nations peoples."

#### - 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, inclusion and access (EDI) as we advance our mission both on and off the stage. We are dedicated to the education and work necessary to make positive change within our organization and in our industry. In 2020, using the "We See You White American Theatre" as our guide, we completed an audit of all company materials, practices, policies and procedures to identify ways we can be a more equitable and inclusive company. The result is a multi-year EDI action plan that will be shared on our website soon. We also engaged in general EDI learning for staff and board, and this year have begun specific anti-racist training that will result in an anti-racism plan for the company. Additionally, we have formed an EDI Advisory Committee to provide feedback and recommendations on our work in this area. We encourage you to follow our goals and progress and how you may get involved at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org.

# **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

I went to Catholic school in New Jersey for one whole year. It was Kindergarten and while the Nuns at Our Lady of Grace were not nearly as fun as the Little Sisters of Hoboken in Nunsense, they were the first of many incredible teachers I had in my life who happened to be women. When I look back at the people who have influenced me most, so many of them are the educators who encouraged my individuality, sense of humor, and gently guided my moral compass in non-judgemental ways. These women weren't just teachers, but caretakers who helped myself and countless others through the hardest years of adolescence. My own mother is a teacher and over the years I got to watch firsthand how she put her students first and advocated for them with every bit of herself. Her students adore her. She's the queen of themed holiday parties, spirit days, and just generally making school a place that her kids love to be. She does all of this while being the most incredible mother to my two sisters and I. It makes me think of the rich lives the other women who have taught me lead outside of school; the other passions they have, the struggles they navigate and put aside in order to give their students the best possible experience. I've always hated the expression "Those who can't do, teach". I think those who are brave and selfless enough to, teach. Dedicating your life to shaping generations of children is one of the noblest jobs I can think of.

While on the surface, Nunsense is a goofy show about singing Nuns putting on a talent show to bury their dead sisters, to me it is just as much about the aspirations and dreams these incredible characters have that live alongside their passion for guiding the kids of Mount St. Helen's Catholic School. None of them have given up on those dreams by becoming Nuns and teachers, in fact they've found meaning in channeling their talents and joyful spirits into their kids. While we never get to see the Nuns in the classroom in Nunsense, when I watch the show, I can't help but smile thinking about what amazing teachers these hilarious and ridiculous characters must be and can't help but feel immense gratitude for the bold and badass women who have taught me everything I know.

Sincerely,

MICHELLE LAUTO, Director. Nunsense

Michelle

# **CAST**

NUNSENSE

MISSY AGUILAR<sup>‡\*</sup> Sister Robert Anne

CYNTHIA CARTER<sup>‡</sup> Sister Mary Regina

LANDREE FLEMING\*\* Sister Mary Amnesia

REBBECCA KEESHIN<sup>‡\*</sup> Sister Mary Leo

**KYRA LEIGH**<sup>‡</sup> Sister Mary Hubert

BAND

KAILEY ROCKWELL<sup>‡</sup> Conductor/Piano

JUSTIN HARNER Keys 2

MADDI VOGELT Drums

ERIC BRINK<sup>†</sup> Reeds

Pronoun Key:  $\dagger$  (he/him/his);  $\ddagger$  (she/her/hers);  $\dagger$  (they, them, theirs);  $\phantom{\dagger}$  (any, with respect) \*Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in America

\*\*Denotes members of the United Scenic Artists IATSE, the Union and Professional Association of Designers, Artists, and Craftspeople

This production uses theatrical fog approved by and in accordance with Actors Equity Association prepared by ENVIRON International Corporation.

#### **COVID Considerations**

Porchlight Music Theatre followed all local, state and federal health and safety guidelines when rehearsing Porchlight Revisits: *Nunsense*.

Please wear your mask during the performance and while inside

The Ruth Page Center for the Arts.

## **MUSICAL SYNOPSIS**

- Act One -

"Welcome" Sister Mary Regina

"Nunsense is Habit-Forming" Company

"A Difficult Transition" Company

"The Quiz" Sister Mary Amnesia

"Benedicite" Sister Mary Leo

"The Biggest Ain't the Best" Sisters Hubert & Leo

"Playing Second Fiddle" Sister Robert Anne

**"So You Want To Be a Nun"** Sister Mary Amnesia

"Turn Up the Spotlight" Sister Mary Regina

**"Lilacs"** Sisters Regina, Hubert, Leo & Amnesia

"A Word from Reverend Mother" Sister Mary Regina

"Tackle That Temptation With a Time Step" Sister Hubert & Company

#### 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

#### - Act Two -

"Robert to The Rescue" Sister Robert Anne

"Growing Up Catholic" Sister Robert Anne w/ Hubert, Leo & Amnesia

"We've Got To Clean Out the Freezer" Company

"Just a Coupl'a Sisters" Sisters Regina & Hubert

"The Dying Nun Ballet" Sister Mary Leo w/ Robert Anne

"Baking with the BVM" Sisters Regina, Hubert & Amnesia

"I Just Want To Be a Star" Sister Robert Anne

"The Drive In" Sisters Robert Anne, Amnesia & Leo

"The Movie" Company

"I Could've Gone to Nashville" Sister Mary Amnesia

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo" Sister Mary Regina & Company

"Holier Than Thou" Sister Mary Hubert & Company

"Nunsense Is Habit-Forming (Reprise)" Company

### **BIOS**



MISSY AGUILAR\*\* (Sister Robert Anne) is eager to be back in the habit with Porchlight Music Theatre where she was seen as Daniela in In The Heights, as well as their Revisits series as Baby Rose in Babes in Arms and Oolie/Donna in City of Angels. Other Chicago-area credits include work with TATC. Drury Lane.

Paramount Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare. Endless love and gratitude to my partner Matt. www.missyaguilar.com



CYNTHIA F. CARTER: (Sister Mary Regina) has had the opportunity to perform all around the city of Chicago and NW Indiana. A few of her past productions, Working (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Evanston IL), The Pajama Came (Theatre at the Center, Munster IN), The Mahalia Jackson Story

(Black Ensemble Theater, Chicago IL). She is truly excited to be back with Porchlight Music Theatre as they revisit Nunsence. Thanks to Mr. Weber and ALL the Amazing Women, creative team and actors that helped bring this production to Life.



LANDREE FLEMING\*\* (Sister Mary Amnesia) is thrilled to return to Porchlight Revisits, having last played Hope Springfield in the Porchlight Revisits production of Fade Out, Fade In. Select Chicago credits include Frenchy in Grease (Marriott Theatre) Kira in Xanadu (American Theater Company),

Penny in Hairspray (Paramount Theatre), and Ira Glass in the staged reading of Walt, Wait, Don't Kill Mel at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. She's also worked at Drury Lane, Theatre at the Center, Griffin Theatre and Adventure Stage Chicago. She's appeared on Chicago P.D., Chicago Med, and is a member of the podcast Encounter Party!, whose Season 1 spent 7+ weeks on Apple Podcast's New & Noteworthy Charts, and Season 2 has charted in 50 countries for Comedy Fiction. Thank you to everyone involved and love to August.



REBECCA KEESHIN<sup>12</sup> (Sister Mary Leo) is thrilled to return to Porchlight after performing in New Faces and the DCASE Juicebox Series in March 2020. Chicago credits include work with A Red Orchid Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, First Folio, and Emerald City. She originated the role of

Winnie Foster in the TYA World Premiere of Tuck Everlasting at Nashville Children's Theatre, and the role of Sophie Kringle in the new Heisler and Goldrich musical, Auntie Claus. She received her BFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Becky runs the blog, The Bookish Vegan. She is represented by DDO Chicago and over the moon to be returning to theatre with this convent. IC: @the\_bookish\_vegan.



KYRA LEIGH: (Sister Mary Hubert) is thrilled to be making her debut with Porchlight! Chicago acting credits include The Things I Could Never Tell Steven (American debut at PrideArts); Love Serving Love (Valiant Theatre); Sundown, Yellow Moon (Raven Theatre); Music directing credits include Head

Over Heels (Kokandy Productions); She's also composed Transfigure, a full concept album. She's very passionate about trans visibility in music and theatre. "Much love to Ryan and the cats!"



JUSTIN HARNER<sup>†</sup> (Synthesizer) is a Chicago-based musician and collaborator. Musical credits include *Triassic Parq* (Pianosaurus and MD/Circle Theatre Chicago), *Little Women* (Co-MD/Brown Paper Box Co.) and *Be More Chill* (Dad and Mr. Reyes/Stage Door Fine Arts), @iayiayach



MADDI VOGEL<sup>†</sup> (Drums) Hailing from the Northwest suburbs of Chicago, Maddi Vogel graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 2021 with a BA in Music+ Business. They have extensive experience in jazz combos, rock bands, and worship teams, as well as 25+ different pit

orchestras in the past seven years. Maddi's primary instrument is drumset, and they hold a passion for Irish Traditional music, composition and music in China from 1982-2015.



ERIC BRINK<sup>†</sup> (Reeds) graduated from UIC with a Bachelors in Music Performance in 2013. He has worked and toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Skatalites, and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. Eric teaches private music lessons and is a regular performer on Chicago's jazz scene.



MICHELLE LAUTO\* (Director) is an award-winning Chicago actor, singer, and educator. She has been seen at Porchlight in In The Heights and Sunset Boulevard. Other credits include: Spamilton: An American Parody (for which she received the Jeff Award for Best Actress in a Revue). HAIR.

Oklahoma, Grease, Seussical and more at various Chicago theatres. Michelle's staging work has been seen at Porchlight in 1776 and in youth productions around Chicago. michellelauto.com; @michellelauto

# BIOS (CONT.)



KAILEY ROCKWELL<sup>‡</sup> (Music Director) is thrilled to be working on Nunsense! She earned a Bachelor of Music in Contemporary, Urban & Popular Music from Columbia College Chicago. Now she works all over the Chicagoland area music directing, performing, arranging, and teaching. Notable companies Kailey has

worked with include: Music Theatre Works, Goodman Theatre, Skokie Theatre, Mercury Theater, Highland Park Players, Stagedoor Fine Arts, Glenview Theatre Guild, Music on Stage, Columbia College Chicago, Porchlight Music Theatre, American Theatre Company, Pride Films and Plays, and Tiffany Lawson Dance. Much appreciation to the Nunsense team and love to her family and Michael.



**JENNA SCHOPPE**: (Choreographer) is back for another round of Porchlight Revisits, after choreographing Call Me Madam and Do Re Mi. On the Porchlight stage, she has appeared in Sophisticated Ladies, End of the Rainbow, Mack and Mabel and Pal Joey. Other performance credits include Miracle (Royal George Theatre), Dames At

Sea (TATC), The Baltimore Waltz (Brown Paper Box Co.), Bye Bye Birdie (Drury Lane Oakbrook) and Hey! Dancin!, Hey! Musica!! (Factory Theater). As a choreographer, her work was featured in Yank: A WW2 Love Story (Pride Films and Plays-Jeff Award, Best Choreography 2018), Bobbie Clearly (Steep Theatre) and The Producers (Nightblue Performing Arts-Jeff Nomination).

MATTHEW R. CHASE¹ (Sound Design) is a Chicago-based Theatrical Sound Designer and Audio Engineer. Recent credits include: sound design of Pump Boys & Dinettes (Porchlight), Anyone Can Whistle, Cooking with Bubbie and Veronica¹s Room (Skokie Theatre) Cigi¹s Party (Yellow Rose Theatre) Urinetown and Xanadu (Columbia College Chicago), 9 to 5 and Mamma Mia! (Golden Ticket Productions), Assistant Sound Designer for Sophisticated Ladies, Sunset Boulevard, A Chorus Line and A Centleman¹s Guide to Love and Murder (Porchlight Musical Theatre) Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Theo Ubique), The Ballad of Lefty & Crabbe (Underscore Theatre Company), Production Manager for Theater Wit.

RACHEL M. SYPNIEWSKI\* (Costume Design) is thrilled to be collaborating with Porchlight for the first time! Other companies she has worked with include Goodman, Trap Door, Broken Nose, Oak Park Festival Theater, Jackalope, Black Button Eyes, The New Colony, Emerald City, Lifeline, Haven, Griffin, CityLit, Chopin, Promethean, Strawdog, Vitalist, Rasaka, the Factory, Red Tape and Redtwist. She also has designed at Wheaton College, Governor's State University, North Central College, St. Patrick's High School, Indiana University Northwest, and the Chicago Academy for the Arts. She is a seven-time Non-equity Jeff nominee, having been awarded one for La Bete at Trap Door. More info at www.rachelsyp.com

RACHEL WEST<sup>1</sup> (Lighting Design) has been serving as the lighting supervisor for Porchlight since the 2016. She has designed the Porchlight Revisits productions of 1776, Can-Can, Minnie's Boys and Call Me Madam and more recently the Porchlight Palooza virtual fundraiser. She is a Chicago-area native and a graduate of Boston University. Rachel proudly volunteers for the Maine-Niles Association for Special Recreation, teaching theatre for individuals with special needs.

CAITLIN BODY:\* (Stage Manager) Porchlight Theatre Debut. Assistant Stage Manager for School Girls(Goodman Theatre) Stage Manager for MLK Project (Writers Theatre), La Havana Madrid (Teatro Vista), What We're Up Against (Compass Theatre); The Comedy of Errors, Andares (Chicago Shakespeare) Forgotten Future, Gender Breakdown, Connected, Encounter, Blue Island, Peacebook (Collaboraction); For Her as a Piano (Pegasus Theatre); Wild Duck (Halcyon Theatre); Julia De Burgos: Child of Water (Urban Theater Company); Pen the Musical (Chicago Musical Theatre Festival). Founding member of Stage Managers of Color - Chicago.

ANDREA ENGER¹ (Assistant Stage Manager and Wardrobe Manager) is happy to be working with Porchlight Music Theatre for the second time after working with them on Sophisticated Ladies. Some of their credits include Southern Gothic at Windy City Playhouse, Picnic at American Theatre Company and Good Friday at Oracle Productions. They have also worked with About Face Theatre Company on This Bitter Earth, Bull in a China Shop and Significant Other. They have a BA in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago.

GIANNI CARCAGNO<sup>®</sup> (Assistant Stage Manager and Audio Assistant) is a Chicago-based stage manager and sound technician. Credits include Mamma Mia (Music Theater Works), Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (Lookingglass Theatre Company), Noises Off (Windy City Playhouse), Polaroid Stories (Loyola University Chicago) and work with Mentor Artists Playwrights Project, The Hypocrites, and Pivot Arts Festival. Gianni has a BA in Theatre and Sociology from Loyola University Chicago. qiannicarcagno.com

JENNIFER APARICIO\*\*(Production Manager/Stage Manager Swing) has been working in the Chicago theater scene for the past several years as a freelance production manager and stage manager. Select production management credits include work with Teatro Vista, Sideshow Theatre Company, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and 16th Street Theater. As a stage manager, credits include work with The Goodman Theatre, Theatre at the Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, 16th Street Theater, and Lifeline Theatre. Jennifer is an Artistic Associate with Teatro Vista and 16th Street Theater and is a member of Actors' Equity Association

**ALEX RHYAN**† (Production and Operations Director) is originally from the northwest suburbs of Chicago and moved to the city in 2011 to attend college. In 2015, Alex received a B.A. in Theater with a concentration in Stage Management from Columbia College Chicago. After graduating, he freelanced as a Technical Director and Production Manager for more than a dozen productions at Chicago theaters including American Theater Company, About Face Theater, Steep Theater, Porchlight Music Theatre, and more. Prior to becoming the Production and Operations Director at Porchlight in 2019, Alex worked alongside the leadership team as the Production Manager at Windy City Playhouse where he helped bring to life 11 productions including the Playhouse's most acclaimed immersive production. Southern Gothic, which ran for more than 500 performances.

# BIOS (CONT.)

RASHAAD A. BOND¹ (Producing Artistic Associate) moved to Chicago from Albuquerque, New Mexico in the summer of 2019. In Albuquerque, Rashaad founded and served as the artistic director for Middle Ground Theatre Company, a company dedicated to giving opportunities to those in the community that were often neglected. He attended the University of New Mexico where he developed skills in directing, producing, acting, lighting design and scenic carpentry and received his BA in Theatre. Since moving to Chicago, Rashaad has had the opportunity to work with organizations such as Black Ensemble Theatre, The League of Chicago Theatres, Theatre Above the Law, Chostlight Ensemble, Perceptions Theatre, Possibilities Theatre and BYOT Productions.

MICHAEL WEBER† (Artistic Director) Michael previously served as artistic director for the inaugural season of Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place (now The Broadway Playhouse) and at Theatre at the Center (1998-2004). His productions of Sunset Boulevard, Sweeney Todd, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Pal Joey, Assassins and Side Show at Porchlight Music Theatre, Grand Hotel at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place and She Loves Me at Theatre at the Center were each nominated for the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Production-Musical, Directing credits include Living the History-125 Years of The Auditorium Theatre starring Patti LuPone and John Mahonev, 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 The Mercury Theater, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum at Pheasant Run Theatre, and Cirque du Symphony at Sears Center Arena. The recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards, he wrote and directed nine Joseph Jefferson Awards ceremonies (2009-2018). Weber's regional acting credits include 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 and Henry V at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, It Had To Be You (starring Cindy Williams and Eddie Mekka) at Little Theatre on the Square, Angel Street at First Folio Shakespeare, and The Gifts of the Magi at Indiana Repertory. Weber is proud to serve as a pledge host on WTTW, Channel 11, and is author of the play, War of the Well(e)s.

JEANNIE LUKOW<sup>‡</sup> (Executive Director) took the helm as Porchlight's first Executive Director in September 2014. She is a founding member of Porchlight's board of directors, and served as president for six of her many years on the board. An integral member of the company since its inception, Jeannie held the positions of marketing director, grant writer and managing director in the early all-volunteer-staff years. She has helped lead Porchlight from this unique perspective of both the staff and board sides, continuing to drive organizational growth, brand expansion and fiscal sustainability. Prior to joining the staff at Porchlight, Jeannie co-founded Bespoke Cuisine, one of Chicago's leading boutique catering and cooking party venues, which she co-owned for 12 years before selling in 2014. Prior to Bespoke, Jeannie built a 15-year career in marketing communications, much of it spent in association management. Her most recent position in that field was as Managing Director of Marketing Communications for the National Association of Realtors, with over 1 million members. Jeannie holds a Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional designation through FMA. She is a native Michigander and graduate of Michigan State University, and an extensive world traveler, avid foodie and dog lover.

† (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); Ť (they, them, theirs); Ţ (any, with respect); \* (Actors' Equity Assoc.)

# PORCHLIGHT Music<sub>theatre</sub>

# **ABOUT PORCHLIGHT**

Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to be a member of the vibrant Ruth Page Center for the Arts community and an Artist In-Residence. Central to the Ruth Page Center for the Arts' programming is the Artists In-Residence program, which is designed to serve organizations looking for a home base while they grow or expand their artistic and organizational capabilities. The Center is committed to nurturing and assisting dance and other performing artists, allowing for exchange and collaborative relationships to develop within the artistic community. The Ruth Page Center for the Arts is a destination for quality performing arts, accessible to a wide community regardless of race, gender, age, education or disability. An incubator of artistic energy and excellence, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts carries forward the vision of its founder, legendary dance icon Ruth Page, to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.

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 Gold Coast and to neighborhoods across the city. Porchlight has built a national reputation for boldly reimagining 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 its 27th season, Porchlight's 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, most notably the ongoing collaboration with Chicago Youth Centers. Porchlight annually awards 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. In 2019, Porchlight graduated to the Large Theatre tier of the Equity Jeff Awards, and was honored with eight nominations in both technical and artistic categories and won three awards in its inaugural year in this tier, most notably Best Ensemble for Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies.

Through the global pandemic, Porchlight 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's fall schedule included all-new ticketed virtual programs including Broadway by the Decade, New Faces Sing Broadway 1987, Chicago Sings Rock & Roll Broadway, New Faces Sing Broadway 1961 and the return of The Ruffians' Burning Bluebeard as well as collaborations with Hershey Felder and L.A. Theatre Works. Porchlight recently launched its first summer performance schedule including a sold-out performance of New Faces Sing Broadway 1979 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, the premiere of its outdoor music series Broadway in your Backyard, performed throughout Chicagoland this summer and special appearances at Sundays on State, Navy Pier's Chicago Live Again and the Ambassador Chicago's Terrace rooftop.



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Brian Troy - Chair Jon Klein - Secretary Jim Jensen - Vice Chair Gretchen Upholt - Treasurer

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#### PORCHLIGHT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Rosie Schultz - Chair

Lanie Bayless August Compton Cody Czmyr Carolyn Isaac Becca Sheehan Yessenia I. Sosa

Join the **Porchlight Young Professionals**! If you are a Chicago-area young professional, ages 21 to 40 years, looking for a unique and fun way to network with other young professionals, join our dynamic group! As a member, you'll be given behind-the-scenes access, enjoy a variety of opportunities to meet other young theatre lovers and arts enthusiasts, and receive invitations to exciting events, as well as being instrumental in the growth of Chicago's home for music theatre.

To learn more, contact **August Compton** at **august@porchlightmusictheatre.org**.

#### **EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Carmen J. Gonzalez, Chair Felton Armand Frankie Leo Bennett E. Faye Butler

E. Faye Butler Ana I. González, MA Ricky Harris Jermaine Hill Tanya Hinton James Earl Jones II Michelle Lauto Nitha Fiona Nagubadi, Ph.D Chris Pazdernik Lorenzo Rush, Jr Michael Weatherspoon Honey West Will Wilhelm Aeriel Williams

## **PORCHLIGHT STAFF**

#### **ARTISTIC**

Artistic Director MICHAEL WEBER†

Director MICHELLE LAUTO

Music Director KAILEY ROCKWELL<sup>‡</sup>

Choreographer JENNA SCHOPPE<sup>‡</sup>

#### **PRODUCTION**

Costume Design RACHEL SYPNIEWSKI\*

Lighting Design RACHEL WEST

Sound Design MATTHEW R. CHASE<sup>†</sup>

Production Stage Manager CAITLIN BODY

Production Manager **JENNIFER APARICIO**<sup>‡</sup>

Asst. Stage Manager & Wardrobe Manager ANDREA ENGER

Asst. Stage Manager & Asst. Audio Engineer GIANNI CARCAGNO#

Soundboard Engineer BRANDON VOGEL<sup>†</sup>

Production & Operations Director ALEX RHYAN†

Producing Artistic Associate RASHAAD A. BOND†

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Executive Director JEANNIE LUKOW<sup>‡</sup>

Finance & Administration Director DAN THOMAS†

Operations Associate KELLIE BUFFINGTON<sup>‡</sup>

# PORCHLIGHT STAFF (CONT.)

#### **AUDIENCE SERVICES**

Audience Services Director AUGUST COMPTON<sup>‡</sup>

Box Office Manager ELANA KENNEDY<sup>‡</sup>

House Manager JORDAN FLEMING<sup>‡</sup>

Front of House Staff

ANGELA COTEY<sup>‡</sup>, SARA CROUNSE<sup>‡</sup>, NOEL HARTMAN<sup>‡/†</sup>, SARA ROSE<sup>‡/†</sup>, SHAE WIRTH<sup>‡</sup>

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

Development Director CARMEN J. GONZALEZ

Development Manager EVIN MARIE RAYFORD<sup>‡</sup>

#### **EDUCATION**

Education Director REBECCAH SINGER

#### **MARKETING**

Marketing & Media Relations SHOUT MARKETING & MEDIA RELATIONS

JAMES JULIANO† & JILL EVANS LA PENNA‡

Marketing Associate JUSTIN KOCHER†

Marketing Associate LOBO TATE<sup>†</sup>

Program Designer REMINGTON CLEVE†

Pronoun Key: † (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); Ť (they, them, theirs); Ţ (any, with respect)

\*Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in America

\*\*Denotes members of the United Scenic Artists IATSE, the Union and Professional Association of Designers, Artists, and Craftspeople

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# **EDUCATION**

Porchlight Music Theatre Classes for Youth, Professionals, Enthusiasts & Schools!

# SPRING CLASSES 2022

Ages 7-10



Saturdays, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM February 5 - April 30, 2022 (no class 4/16) DePaul School of Music Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted St.

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, family and friends are invited to join us for a final performance to celebrate all your young actors' work.

# Musical THEATRE BOOTCAMP

Ages 11-13 Saturdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM February 5 - April 30, 2022 (no class 4/16) DePaul School of Music Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted St.

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 camp!



Ages 14-17 Sundays, 3:30 - 6:30 PM February 6 - May 1, 2022 (no class 4/17) DePaul School of Music Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted St.

Our most advanced actors will tackle challenging choreography, music and scene work to create a final showcase that highlights both ensemble and individual work. Actors will set individual performance goals and learn how a musical is constructed from first rehearsal to final performance.

We're also gearing up for Summer Camp! Check out porchlightmusictheatre.org/events/youth-classes for more information on Spring and Summer 2022 classes, including **Mini Musicals** for ages 4-6!

Financial aid, scholarships and payment plans available. More information, as well as registration and our scholarship application can be found on our website.

#### Music Theatre Enthusiasts

Fans of all ages are welcome to join us for fun and conversational classes exploring all things Music Theatre enhanced show talkbacks this season!

#### **Partner with Porchlight**

Porchlight loves sharing our signature literacy residency, Sing Out!, with your child's classroom! Students will read, write, and perform an original musical piece based on a classroom book.

One off classroom workshops and production support is also available anytime throughout the school year!

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



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# FREE VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

#### Follow on Facebook and Instagram for updates and details



#### SONDHEIM @ 90 ROUNDTABLE WITH HOST ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL WEBER

FREE! Porchlight's YouTube channel and a variety of podcast forums. With 18 episodes, Sondheim @ 90 celebrates **Stephen Sondheim**'s 90th birthday year and his storied career. Each episode focuses on one of Sondheim's musicals with a lively discussion hosted by Artistic Director **Michael Weber** and featuring special guests from the worlds of Chicago's theater scene, Broadway and national music theatre presenters.



#### WPMT: CLASSIC MUSICALS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

FREE! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m. CT

One of Porchlight's most popular offerings, 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.



# OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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: October 29, 2020 through October 29, 2021. For a full list of all contributions for FY20, please consult our website at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Our-Contributors.

For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight or to update any information on the following donor list, please contact Kellie Buffington at kellie@porchlightmusictheatre.org

#### **Our Institutional Donors**





















































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#### **Government Support**

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