

# PUMP BOYS & Dinettes



PORCHLIGHT  
MUSIC THEATRE

21/22

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## MAINSTAGE



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**PORCHLIGHT**  
**MUSIC THEATRE**

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

[PorchlightMusicTheatre.org](https://PorchlightMusicTheatre.org)

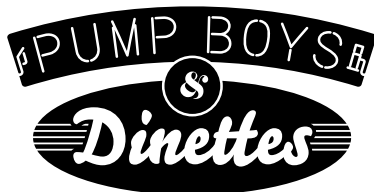


# PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

**MICHAEL WEBER**  
Artistic Director

**JEANNIE LUKOW**  
Executive Director

presents



Created by  
**JOHN FOLEY, MARK HARDWICK, DEBRA MONK,  
CASS MORGAN, JOHN SCHIMMEL & JIM WANN**

Direction by  
**DARYL BROOKS**

Music Direction by  
**ROBERT REDDRICK**

Choreography by  
**RUEBEN D. ECHOLES**

Starring  
**RAFE BRADFORD, SHANTEL CRIBBS, IAN PAUL CUSTER,  
FREDERICK HARRIS, MELANIE LOREN & BILLY RUDE**  
With understudies  
**CAITLIN DOBBINS, J.J. SMITH & KELAN SMITH**

Scenic Design	<b>SYDNEY LYNNE</b>
Costume & Wig Design	<b>RUEBEN D. ECHOLES</b>
Lighting Design	<b>DENISE KARCEWSKI</b>
Properties Design	<b>CAITLIN MCCARTHY</b>
Co-Sound Design	<b>ERIC BACKUS</b>
Co-Sound Design	<b>STEFANIE M. SENIOR</b>
Production Stage Manager	<b>DEYA FRIEDMAN</b>
Production Manager & SM Swing	<b>JENNIFER APARICIO</b>

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

  
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Porchlight Music Theatre acknowledges the generosity of Allstate, the Bayless Family Foundation, DCASE Chicago, the Gaylor 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.

*PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://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](https://PorchlightMusicTheatre.org)**.



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Being raised in Waynesboro, Virginia (a small town off of highway 81), I related to *Pump Boys and Dinettes* in a whole different way. The connection of community and values really struck a chord with me. Today, times have changed and people have changed, but not the sense of community.

When Porchlight asked me to direct *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, I realized that it was time to show off the diversity not just in the people, but the music! Having the ability to talk to one of the writers, Jim Wann, he not only embraced the diversity, he replaced the song "Farmer's Tan" with a brand new song that combines the original feel of the show, with recognition of a past that is often forgotten in the world-premiere song "Surf Castin' Man." At every turn, this show will be a slice of comfort and excitement just like a piece of my grandma's lemon meringue pie!

To the cast, crew and staff, you are AMAZING and congratulations on such a wonderful show. Thank you, Michael and Jeannie, for letting my crazy brain grace the Porchlight stage once again, and making me feel like family every time I accept the call. To Rob and Rueben, we have worked together for 15 years, and I wouldn't have wanted to have anyone else take this journey with me!

As always... special shout out to my partner in crime, Denise. Maya, Daddy loves you!!!

**DARYL D. BROOKS, Director, *Pump Boys & Dinettes***

## COVID Considerations

Porchlight Music Theatre followed all local, state and federal health and safety guidelines when rehearsing *Pump Boys & Dinettes*.

Please wear your mask during the performance and while inside  
The Ruth Page Center for the Arts.

# CAST

## *PUMP BOYS & DINETTES*

**RAFE BRADFORD**<sup>†</sup> Eddie

**SHANTEL CRIBBS**<sup>†\*</sup> Prudie Cupp

**IAN PAUL CUSTER**<sup>†\*</sup> Jim

**FREDERICK HARRIS**<sup>†\*</sup> L.M.

**MELANIE LOREN**<sup>‡</sup> Rhetta Cupp

**BILLY RUDE**<sup>†\*</sup> Jackson

## INSTRUMENTS

**RAFE BRADFORD**<sup>†</sup> Bass

**IAN PAUL CUSTER**<sup>†\*</sup> Rhythm Guitar

**FREDERICK HARRIS**<sup>†\*</sup> Piano

**BILLY RUDE**<sup>†\*</sup> Lead Guitar

## UNDERSTUDIES

**CAITLIN DOBBINS**<sup>‡</sup> Rhetta Cupp/Prudie Cupp

**IAN PAUL CUSTER**<sup>†\*</sup> L.M./Piano

**J.J. SMITH**<sup>†</sup> Jackson/Jim/Lead Guitar/Rhythm Guitar

**KELAN M. SMITH**<sup>†</sup> Jim/Eddie/Rhythm Guitar/Bass

Pronoun Key: † (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); † (they, them, theirs); ‡ (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.

# MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

## - Act One -

**“Highway 57”** Company

**“Taking It Slow”** Pump Boys

**“Serve Yourself”** L.M.

**“Menu Song”** Dinettes

**“The Best Man”** Prudie Cupp

**“Fisherman’s Prayer”** Pump Boys

**“Catfish”** Pump Boys

**“Mamaw”** Jim

**“Be Good or Be Gone”** Rhetta Cupp

**“Drinkin’ Shoes”** Company

*15 MINUTE INTERMISSION*

## - Act Two -

**“Pump Boys”** Pump Boys

**“Mona”** Jackson

**“T.N.D.P.W.A.M.”** L.M.

**“Tips”** Dinettes

**“Sister”** Dinettes

**“Vacation”** Company

**“No Holds Barred”** Company

**“Surf Castin’ Man”** L.M.

**“Highway 57” (Reprise)** Company

**“Closing Time”** Company

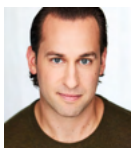
# BIOS



**RAFE BRADFORD\*** (*Eddie*) Born on Chicago's South Side, Rafe began his professional career at age 16 playing in steppers lounges. He received a full scholarship to study Jazz and Classical bass at the University of Illinois Urbana after which performing with many jazz legends including McCoy Tyner, Nancy Wilson, Stanley Turrentine, and Chicago legend Chabib Ghallab. Later Rafe became an original member of the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" Live-House Band where he was privileged to perform with Luther Vandross, Mavis Staples and others. Many TV commercials followed with the famous voices of Barry White, CeCe Winans, Patti Austin, and the Oprah show theme with Patti LaBelle. In recent years you could catch Rafe on NBC's "The Bonnie Hunt Show" where he performed with "Late Night's" Paul Shaffer and drumming legend Harvey Mason. Now back in Chicago, Rafe has been the bass foundation for many Jeff nominated musicals.



**SHANTEL CRIBBS\*** (*Prudie Cupp*) Shantel Cribbs returns to Porchlight, where previous credits include *Sophisticated Ladies* and *Memphis*. Chicago/Regional: *The Color Purple*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Drury Lane), *Junie B. Jones* (Marriott Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mercury Theatre), *Marie Christine* (BoHo Theatre), *A Jazz Happening* (Ted Shawn Theatre) and *SIX* (The Ordway) Training: Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. BFA Musical Theatre Performance, Columbia College Chicago. Philipians 4:13 #TheBaddest [www.shantelcribbs.net](http://www.shantelcribbs.net) | @shandyrene



**IAN PAUL CUSTER\*** (*Jim*), is thrilled to be working with Porchlight Music Theatre. Chicago credits: *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Jeff Award, Best Ensemble, Best Musical - Midsize), *The Columnist*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *It's A Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!* (American Blues Theater), *Bad Jews* (Theatre Wit), *33 Variations* (Jeff Award- Best Production, Midsize), and *To Master The Art* (TimeLine Theatre), *Annie Bosh* is *Missing* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *High Holidays* (Goodman Theatre), *Princess and the Pea* (Marriott Theatre), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Paramount Theatre). Regional credits: *Hero: The Musical* (Asolo Rep Theatre), *Cymbeline* (Notre Dame Shakespeare), *Romeo and Juliet* (Cardinal Stage), *Peter Pan* (360 Entertainment - London, England). Television credits: "APB," "Empire," "Chicago Fire," and "Chicago PD." Ian received his BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University, is an Ensemble member of American Blues Theater, and is represented by Big Mouth Talent Inc. Special thanks to Daryl, Rob, Michael, Mark LeBeau, Shannon, and Magoo. Follow me on Instagram (@ipcyeahyouknowme), Twitter (@ianpaulcuster), or at [ianpaulcuster.godaddysites.com](http://ianpaulcuster.godaddysites.com).



**FREDERICK HARRIS\*** (*L.M.*) most recent productions include *The Little Mermaid* (Seawitch); *Madhatter Gin & Tea Party*: Fever Up Productions (Dormouse) *The Total Bent*: Haven Theatre (Deacon Dennis); *Crowns*: Fleetwood-Jourdain (Preacher); *The View Upstairs*: Circle Theatre (Willie); *Company*: Mercury Theater Chicago (Harry); *Merrily We Roll Along*: Porchlight Music Theatre (Jerome); *A Dickens Carol*: Oak Park Festival Theatre (Conductor); *Little Shop of Horrors*: William Street Repertory Theatre (Audrey II); *Ragtime*: Griffin Theatre (Booker T. Washington) Jeff Award for Best Musical; *The Wiz*: Kokandy Productions (The Wiz) Black Theatre Alliance Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical; *Direct from Death Row*, *The Scottsboro Boys*: Raven Theatre (Piano Player) Jeff Award for Best Ensemble; *Hands on a Hard Body*: William Street Repertory Theatre (Ronald). Frederick is thankful to God and the Spirit of his Ancestors for continuing to give love and light to his life. T.E.



**MELANIE LOREN\*** (*Rhett Cupp*) Porchlight: "Mrs. Krupnick/Mrs. Murdock" in Porchlight Revisits *Minnie's Boys*. Chicago: *The Color Purple* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Drury Lane Theatre), *The First Deep Breath* (Victory Gardens Theater), and *The Firestorm* (First Folio Theatre). Touring: *The Defamation Experience* (Canamac Productions). Film and Television: "Undercover Brother 2," "Sprung," "Chicago Med," "The Chi," "APB" and "Chicago P.D." Melanie is a 2018 Black Theater Alliance Award recipient for her work in *Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery* (Pegasus Theatre Chicago). @iammelodrama



**BILLY RUDE\*** (*Jackson*) Porchlight: "Joe Gillis" in *Sunset Boulevard*, "Voice of Vernon" in Porchlight Revisits *They're Playing Our Song*. Chicago: *Grease*, *Murder for Two* (Marriott Theatre), and *Beauty & The Beast* (Drury Lane Oakbrook). Billy has traveled the country on the National Tour of *Million Dollar Quartet*, and is so grateful to be back onstage making music with friends after so long. For more of my music, art, and performances, follow @billy\_rude or [www.billyrude.com](http://www.billyrude.com)



**CAITLIN DOBBINS\*** (*u/s Rhett and Prudie Cupp*); is originally from the small town Hendersonville, Tennessee where she began performing in the church choir and trained in jazz vocal studies at Nashville Jazz Workshop. Since then Caitlin has recently graduated from Columbia College Chicago for Musical Theatre. Some recent Chicago credits include: *Big Fish* at Boho Theatre (Jeff nominated for "Best Musical"), *Head Over Heels* at Kokandy Production (Jeff nominated for "Best Musical"), *Wife Material* at Underscore Theatre, and *Beehive The Musical* at Metropolis Theatre. Caitlin is represented by Gray Talent Group and super excited to be working with Porchlight.

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

# BIOS (CONT.)



**J.J. SMITH**<sup>†</sup> (*u/s Jim and Jackson*) is thrilled to be working with Porchlight Music Theatre and is eager to return to the stage. A Chicago-based actor, musician, singer, and songwriter, JJ enjoys combining his passions for Blues/Folk-Rock, and Classical Theatre.

While the pandemic upended life as we know it, JJ shifted his focus to songwriting and recorded his debut album "28 Club" with Plaid Dog Recording in Boston, MA this past June. The album is due for release this Fall on all streaming platforms. Prior to the Pandemic, JJ was most recently on stage in the ensemble for Midsommer Flight's *Twelfth Night*, as well as The Stupid Shakespeare Company's *Pickwickicles & The Merchant of Sesame Street*. Keep up with JJ's theatrical & musical pursuits at [www.jjsmithasm.com](http://www.jjsmithasm.com).



**KELAN M. SMITH**<sup>†</sup> (*u/s Jim and Eddie*) Kelan is thrilled to be making his Porchlight mainstage debut! Much love to his family and friends. Chicago/Regional: *New Faces Sing Broadway 1987* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Timber Lake Playhouse),

*Verböten* (The House Theatre), *Bright Star* (Boho Theatre), *Haymarket* (Underscore Theatre), *We're Gonna Die* (Haven Theatre), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Metropolis Theatre), *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *That's Weird, Grandma* (Playmakers Laboratory). [www.kelannsmith.com](http://www.kelannsmith.com)



**DARYL D. BROOKS**<sup>†</sup> (*Director*) is a Chicago based Director, Writer and Actor who was born and raised in Waynesboro, Virginia. He is currently the Producing Managing Director of the Black Ensemble Theater. His musical revue, *You Can't Fake the Funk: A Journey Through Funk Music*,

premiered at Black Ensemble Theater and earned him an African American Arts Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, and the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Musical/Revue. His production *Men of Soul* also received multiple awards and nominations including the Chicago BroadwayWorld nomination for Best Director for a Musical/Revue, a Jeff Award Nomination for Best Director of a Review, and was selected for production at The National Black Theater Festival. He has directed over fifty productions and some credits include; *Black Pearl: A Tribute to Josephine Baker*, *Women of Soul* (Black Ensemble Theatre), *Memphis* (Porchlight Musical Theatre), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Theatre At the Center), *Akeelah and the Bee* and *Fast Food Chain* (Adventure Stage and Northwestern Settlement). In 2019 Daryl received the Chicago Defender's Men of Excellence Award for building diversity and equity within the Chicago theater community. Maya- Daddy Loves You!



**RUEBEN D. ECHOLES**<sup>†</sup> (*Choreographer/Costume & Wig Designer*) Mr. Echoles is an accomplished playwright, director, choreographer, and designer. He is an Associate Artistic Director for Black Ensemble Theater and has been since from 2005. Rueben has had the

pleasure of working with many theater companies across the country and in the Chicagoland area such as ETA creative Arts Foundation (Director/Choreographer/ Costume designer Showfolk TYA, Co playwright with Euseni Eugene Perkins 'Voices of HIV') Congo Square, Refuge, Porchlight Music Theater (costume designer), Paramount (asst. wig designer) and Studio One Dance Theater (playwright, director creative consultant 2003 – present), just to name a few. His most recent projects include *Call Me Madam* (costume design PMT) *A New Attitude*, *In Tribute to Patti Labelle*, *My Brothers Keeper: The story of the Nicholas Brothers and The Last Dancer Standing* (playwright/director/ Choreographer Black Ensemble Theater) Rueben is thrilled to be a part of this amazing project!!



**ROBERT REDDRICK**<sup>†</sup> (*Music Director*) is the music director and drummer for Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater. He is a seven-time recipient of the Black Theater Alliance award, and five-time nominee for the Joseph Jefferson award for best music director. Additionally, he has been

music director for projects at Steppenwolf Theatre (Traffic series), University of Illinois, Free Street Theater, as well as drummer for many other productions throughout Chicago. In the late 1990's he toured with "The Platters featuring the Legendary Monroe Powell", and travelled worldwide with them. He also has his own band, "The R2Project featuring Bonnie Phillips" with CD's available online. Robert has performed, produced, and engineered many recordings for local Chicago artists. "I am extremely excited to work on this project for Porchlight! Thank you, Daryl Brooks, and Michael Weber, for thinking of me! Thank you to Jackie Taylor for allowing me the time "away from home". And a special thank you to my wife Bonnie for her continued love and support.

**SYDNEY LYNNE**<sup>†</sup> (*Scenic Designer*) is a Chicago-based scenic designer and civic artist. Specializing in visual arts/installations, she has crafted over 50 world-building experiences. Her recently recognized productions include *Sheepdog* (Shattered Globe Theatre), *Hoodoo Love* (Raven Theatre), and *His Shadow* (16th St Theater). Her collaborators include: Stage 773, the House Theatre, Cabinet of Curiosities, Pegasus Theater, Chicago Children's Theater, Children's Theater of Charlotte, Haven Theatre, Longwharf Theatre, Congo Square Theater, Chicago Park District, and UC Riverside. She was nominated for a 2020 Jeff Award in Scenic Design and won a 2020 3Arts Award in Theatre. She is a graduate of Northwestern University. ~To those who got me here, thank you. SL

† (he/him/his); ‡ (she/her/hers); † (they, them, theirs); ‡ (any, with respect)



# BIOS (CONT.)

**DENISE KARCZEWSKI**<sup>†</sup> (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be back to work with Porchlight Music Theatre! Selected credits with PMT include *Sophisticated Ladies*, *A Chorus Line* (Jeff nomination), *Gypsy*, *Memphis*, *Billy Elliott* (Jeff nomination), *In The Heights* and *Dreamgirls*. She would like to thank Michael for the opportunity and Rachel for being awesome. When theatre exists, her work can regularly be seen at Porchlight, Theatre at the Center, Mercury Theatre Chicago and Black Ensemble Theatre. Love to Daryl and Maya.

**ERIC BACKUS**<sup>†</sup> (Co-Sound Designer) is a composer and sound designer based in Chicago. Previous collaborations with Porchlight include the streaming productions *Chicago Sings Rock & Roll and Broadway by the Decade*. Off-Broadway: *Hollow/Wave* (United Solo Festival), *Churchill* (SoloChicago Theatre); Regional: *Mark Twain's River of Song*, *The All Night Strut* (Milwaukee Rep.), *Shakespeare in Love*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (TheatreSquared), *Legally Blonde* (Northern Stage), *Working: A Musical, Murder for Two* (Merry Go Round Playhouse), *Rock of Ages* (Lake Dillon Theatre Co.). Recent Chicago credits include *Plano* (First Floor Theater, Steppenwolf LookOut Series), *Short Shakes! Comedy of Errors* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Every Brilliant Thing* (Windy City Playhouse), *Wolf Play* (Gift Theatre, Jeff Nomination), and *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* (American Blues Theater, Jeff Nomination). In addition to theatre, Eric has composed and sound designed for podcasts and film. To hear some of his music, please visit [ericbackus.com](http://ericbackus.com).

**STEFANIE M. SENIOR**<sup>†</sup> (Co-Sound Designer) is delighted to be coming back to Chicago theatre in her first show with Porchlight. She is a Chicago-based sound designer and engineer, but has also worked regionally. Favorite credits include: *Whose Body?* (Lifeline), *Non-Player Character* (Red Theatre), *Working* (The Depot Theatre), *Top Dog/Underdog* and *Rock of Ages* (both Lake Dillon Theatre Company). Stefanie works on the podcast *I've Been Meaning To Listen To That*. Her next project is an audio drama of *Sense & Sensibility* with Lifeline. Website: [www.stefaniemsenior.com](http://www.stefaniemsenior.com).

**CAITLIN MCCARTHY**<sup>†</sup> (Properties Designer) is a multi-disciplinary theatre and film artist who works in prop, costume, and production design. Chicago: prop design for *Sophisticated Ladies* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *The Last Pair of Earlies*, *A Doll's House* (Raven Theatre), *A Recipe for Disaster*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Recommendation* (Windy City Playhouse); costume/prop design for *The Gulf* (About Face Theatre). Film: production design for *The Care and Keeping of You*; production/costume design for *Trading Hearts* with Victor Shaw, *CLAMBAKE* (upcoming); costume design for *The Last Stand of Bobby Coe* (upcoming). Caitlin is the Director of Production at First Floor Theater. [www.caitlinmccarthy.net](http://www.caitlinmccarthy.net)

**RACHEL WEST**<sup>†</sup> (Lighting Supervisor) 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 Ploozza 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.

**MATTHEW R. CHASE**<sup>†</sup> (Audio Engineer) is a Chicago-based Theatrical Sound Designer and Audio Engineer. Recent credits include: sound design of *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Cooking with Bubbie* and *Veronica's Room* (Skokie Theatre) *Gigi's 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 Gentleman's 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.

**DEYA FRIEDMAN**<sup>\*</sup> (Production Stage Manager) is pleased to be working with Porchlight Music Theatre for the first time. Most recently, Deya served as Stage Manager for Congo Square's *Day of Absence* and *Miracle the Musical* at the Royal George Theatre. Earlier Chicago credits include productions at Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Teatro Vista, the Broadway Playhouse, and the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, where she also served as Production Manager for 2 seasons. Deya taught stage management classes at Loyola University Chicago, DePaul University, and was a part of the teaching faculty at the University of Tennessee Knoxville from 2008 to 2015. Regional credits include productions at the Children's Theater of Minneapolis and twelve seasons at Peninsula Players in Door County, Wisconsin.

**ANDREA ENGER**<sup>†</sup> (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.

**JENNIFER APARICIO**<sup>†</sup> (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.

**GIANNI CARCAGNO**<sup>†</sup> (Assistant Stage Manager and Audio Assistant) is a Chicago-based stage manager and sound technician. This is her Porchlight debut! Credits include *Mamma Mia* (Music Theater Works),

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

# BIOS (CONT.)

*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. [giannicarcagno.com](http://giannicarcagno.com)

**ALEX RHYAN**<sup>†</sup> (*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.

**RASHAAD A. BOND**<sup>†</sup> (*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, Ghostlight Ensemble, Perceptions Theatre, Possibilities Theatre and BYOT Productions.

**MICHAEL WEBER**<sup>†</sup> (*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 Mahoney, *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 *Cyprus* (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(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); † (they, them, theirs); † (any, with respect)

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.

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August Compton

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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](mailto:august@porchlightmusictheatre.org).

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# PORCHLIGHT STAFF

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Director **DARYL BROOKS**<sup>†</sup>

Music Director **ROBERT REDDRICK**<sup>†</sup>

Choreographer/Costume and Wig Designer **RUEBEN D. ECHOLES**<sup>†</sup>

Scenic Designer **SYDNEY LYNNE**<sup>‡</sup>

Lighting Design **DENISE KARCZEWSKI**<sup>‡</sup>

Properties Design **CAITLIN MCCARTHY**<sup>‡</sup>

Co-Sound Design **ERIC BACKUS**<sup>†</sup>

Co-Sound Design **STEFANIE M. SENIOR**<sup>‡</sup>

Dance Captain **SHANTEL CRIBBS**<sup>‡\*</sup>

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Production Manager & SM Swing **JENNIFER APARICIO**<sup>‡\*</sup>

Asst. Stage Manager & Wardrobe Manager **ANDREA ENGER**<sup>†</sup>

Asst. Stage Manager & Assistant Audio Engineer **GIANNI CARCAGNO**<sup>‡/†</sup>

Audio Engineer **MATTHEW R. CHASE**<sup>†</sup>

Properties Artisan **HALEY GADZIK**<sup>‡</sup>

Lighting Supervisor **RACHEL WEST**<sup>†</sup>

Scenic Carpenters **KAYNE BOWLING**<sup>†</sup>, **RYAN DYGERT**<sup>†/‡</sup>, **EMMANUEL JIMENEZ**<sup>†</sup> & **ELIZABETH SCHAFER**<sup>‡</sup>

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Productions and Operations Director **ALEX RHYAN**<sup>†</sup>

Producing Artistic Associate **RASHAAD A. BOND**<sup>†</sup>



# PORCHLIGHT STAFF (CONT.)

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Finance & Administration Director	<b>DAN THOMAS<sup>†</sup></b>
Operations Associate	<b>KELLIE BUFFINGTON<sup>‡</sup></b>

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

## EDUCATION

Education Director	<b>REBECCA SINGER<sup>‡</sup></b>
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Pre-Production Photography	<b>CHRIS TONG<sup>†</sup></b>
Production Photography	<b>OREL CHOLLETTE<sup>†</sup></b>
Videography	<b>MARTY HIGGINBOTHAM<sup>†</sup></b>

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

# EDUCATION

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

## SPRING CLASSES 2022

### Broadway BASICS

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!

### Advanced MUSIC THEATRE PERFORMANCE

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](https://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](https://PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/school) or reach out to Education Director **Rebecca Singer** at [rebecca@porchlightmusictheatre.org](mailto:rebecca@porchlightmusictheatre.org).

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## 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.

FIND YOUR SEAT  
the show is about to begin  
ENTER TO WIN

Take a photo \*from your seat\* and share your theatre experience! We can't wait to hear what you have missed about being in an audience and how it feels to be back.

Use the hashtag **#FromMySeat** when sharing your post or story on Instagram\* for a chance to win tickets to an upcoming theatre production.

We're thrilled you're back at the theatre! Visit our website to find out all that's happening in Chicago Theatre.



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Public accounts only. This contest is associated with Instagram. Photos are not permitted during performances. Visit [ChicagoPlays.com/Find-Your-Seat](https://chicagoplays.com/Find-Your-Seat) for the official rules.

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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](mailto:kellie@porchlightmusictheatre.org).

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Caryl Steinberg  
Ellen Steinberg  
Donna Stevenson  
Malinda Strauss  
Cynthia Strong  
Linda Surlak  
Todd Toles  
Joanne C Tremulis  
Tina & Dennis Vaughn  
Roger & Judith Wallenstein  
Margaret Wander  
Patricia Walsh  
Michael Weber  
Susan Weindruch  
Jim West  
Sharon West  
Thelma West  
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Chicago, IL**

Saturday, Dec 11, 2021 - 3 PM and 7 PM

Sunday, Dec 12, 2021 - 1 PM and 5 PM

**College of Lake County  
James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts  
Grayslake, IL**

Saturday, Dec 18, 2021 - 1 PM and 5 PM

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