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JULY 18 - SEPTEMBER 1

# children of eden

book by  
JOHN  
CAIRD

music & lyrics by  
STEPHEN  
SCHWARTZ

based on a concept by  
CHARLES  
LISANBY

orchestrations by  
BRUCE  
COUGHLIN and  
MARTIN  
ERSKINE

direction by  
JUSTIN  
ANDERSON

musical direction by  
ANN-CAROL  
PENCE

choreography by  
RICARDO  
APONTE



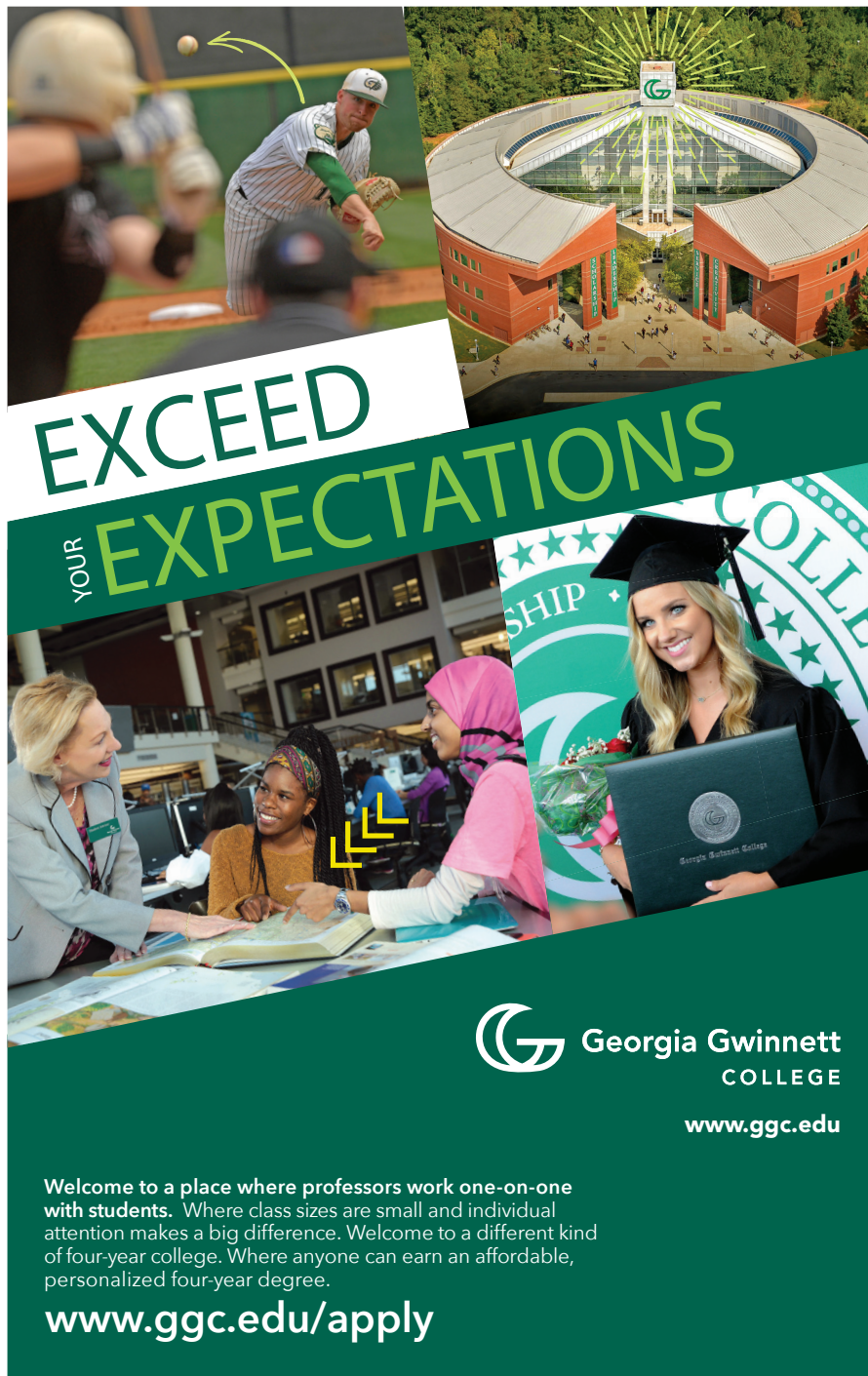
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presents

# children of eden

Book by **JOHN CAIRD**      Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SCHWARTZ**      Orchestrations by **BRUCE COUGHLIN**  
**MARTIN ERSKINE**

Scenic Design  
**SHANNON ROBERT\*\***

Lighting Design  
**MARIA CRISTINA FUSTÉ\*\***

Sound Design  
**DANIEL TERRY**

Projection Design  
**MILTON CORDERO**

Costume Design  
**ALAN YEONG\*\***

Properties Design  
**CODY RUSSELL**

Wig/Facial Hair Design  
**LINDSEY EWING**

Fight Choreography  
**ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ**

Stage Manager  
**KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS\***

Company Manager  
**KATIE PELKEY**

Production Manager  
**DANIEL POPE**

Technical Director  
**ANDREW O'NEAL**

Choreography by  
**RICARDO APONTE**

Musical Direction by  
**ANN-CAROL PENCE**

Directed by  
**JUSTIN ANDERSON**

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union  
of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the US.



\*\*Member of United Scenic Artists

*Children of Eden* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



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## FROM THE PRODUCERS

**“We will never know, we will never grow, if we never go beyond.”**

-Stephen Schwartz, *Children of Eden*

LET THERE BE.... From the day we opened the new Aurora Theatre in 2007, we would look outside our windows and dream. That's what dreamers do. They don't set limits. They never settle. They create. They inspire. They look BEYOND. We looked BEYOND.

A lot of people moved a lot of mountains IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, so that we could build this space, this campus, this EDEN. In every step of design and execution, it was about a shared vision. What could this place be? What dreams will begin here? Whose first theatrical show will be experienced from our seats, from our classrooms, from our plaza (garden), from Lawrenceville? It might not be PERFECT, but it will be unlike any other place in Georgia.

Whoever said, “If you build it, they will come,” was wrong. It is not just about a building, it is about those who enter it. There are plenty of structures both near and far that have been built, that are dark more than lit, that are closed more than open, that are empty more than full. The vibrancy of our programming, the conversations we inspire, the inclusiveness of our work fills these walls. It's not just about Ann-Carol and me. Without a team of dream makers, otherwise known as artists, we would most assuredly be LOST IN THE WILDERNESS.

What exactly is this SPARK OF CREATION? When we tell people what we are building, they are amazed that there is a city so innovative as to provide cultural infrastructure and funding that will make our entire region stronger not only for this decade, but for GENERATIONS to come. That takes courage folks.

Many of you haven't just come here from a mile away, from a town away, not even a county away, but we have many “wise men” (and women) coming from states away. And when the new hotel (“inn” if you will) is completed, we will achieve another part of our dream - to be the most popular tourist destination location for the arts in North Georgia. AIN'T THAT GOOD?

*Children of Eden* looks at paradise, family, flood, love, loyalty, sacrifice, death, grace.... forgiveness. Noah says, “The HARDEST PART OF LOVE is the letting go.” Let go of the one show you did not like. Let go of the trumpet who clammed a bad note. Let go of the fact you couldn't find a parking space. Instead, dare to dream. Build this block with us, and in WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE, let's give thanks together.

We are GRATEFUL CHILDREN to be sure,

Anthony & Ann-Carol

**Anthony Rodriguez**

Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder

**Ann-Carol Pence**

Associate Producer/Co-Founder



**Bella Rodriguez**  
Barx Office Manager





## CAST

Father.....	<b>BRAD RAYMOND*</b>
Adam/Noah .....	<b>MAXIM GUKHMAN*</b>
Eve/Mama .....	<b>NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL*</b>
Cain/Japeth.....	<b>RUSSELL ALEXANDER II</b>
Abel/Ham.....	<b>HADEN RIDER</b>
Seth/Shem.....	<b>ALEX HARDING</b>
Aphra.....	<b>LAUREN HILL</b>
Yonah/Snake.....	<b>BRIANA YOUNG</b>
Storyteller/Snake.....	<b>LESLIE BELLAIR*</b>
Aysha/Snake.....	<b>CHLOE CORDLE*</b>
Storyteller/Snake.....	<b>MICHAEL CRUTE</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>JOHN FISCIAN</b>
Storyteller/Snake.....	<b>WILLIS HAO</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>TERELYN JONES</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>OLIVIA ZIMMERMAN</b>
Young Cain.....	<b>CALEB BAUMANN</b>
Young Abel.....	<b>JJ JONES</b>
Young Cain.....	<b>NOAH POPP</b>
Young Abel.....	<b>JACKSON WILLIAMS</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>TORREKE EVANS</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>ANDREW LAMPLEY</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>SARAH NATHANSON</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>MICHE' SMITH</b>
Storyteller.....	<b>BRANDON M. WEBER</b>

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder.....	<b>ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ</b>
Associate Producer/Co-Founder/Music Director.....	<b>ANN-CAROL PENCE</b>
Associate Artistic Director/Director .....	<b>JUSTIN ANDERSON</b>
Resident Stage Manager .....	<b>KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS*</b>
Assistant Stage Manager.....	<b>CAROLINE CALDWELL*</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> Assistant Stage Manager.....	<b>LENA ARMAS</b>
Master Carpenter.....	<b>JON SANDMAIER</b>
Scenic Painter.....	<b>SARAH THOMSON</b>
Technical Theatre Apprentice.....	<b>NICOLE KISS</b>
Master Electrician .....	<b>CHAD KUNEY</b>
Light Board Programmer .....	<b>MIKE MORIN</b>
Follow Spots... <b>KEVIN DAVIS, MOLLY HUNTINGTON, JASMINE RENEE ELLIS</b>	
Assistant Sound Designer/Sound Board Operator.....	<b>ANNA LEE</b>
Assistant Costume Designer .....	<b>RACHAEL KARAS</b>
Costume Shop Manager/Cutter/Draper .....	<b>JENNIFER ACKLAND</b>
Stitcher .....	<b>DANIELLA AMPUDIA, NAN STEPHENS</b>
Head Piece Artisan .....	<b>CASEY RILEY</b>
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	<b>EMILY GRACE BLACKSTONE</b>
Costume Shop Apprentice.....	<b>ANSLEIGH HARRISON</b>



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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

---

Let There Be .....	Father, Storytellers
The Naming .....	Father, Eve, Adam, Storytellers
Grateful Children .....	Adam, Eve
Father's Day .....	Father, Storytellers
The Spark of Creation .....	Eve
In Pursuit of Excellence .....	Snake, Eve
A World Without You .....	Adam, Father, Eve
The Expulsion .....	Father, Storytellers
The Wasteland .....	Storytellers
Lost in the Wilderness .....	Cain
Close to Home .....	Adam, Eve, Young Abel, Young Cain, Abel
A Ring of Stones.....	Cain, Adam, Eve, Abel
The Mark of Cain.....	Father, Storytellers
Children of Eden .....	Eve, Storytellers

## ACT II

---

Generations.....	Storytellers
A Piece of Eight.....	Noah, Yonah, Japeth, Storytellers
Stranger to the Rain .....	Yonah
In Whatever Time We Have .....	Japeth, Yonah
The Flood.....	Father, Storytellers
What is He Waiting for? .....	Noah, Mama, Ham, Shem, Aysha, Aphra
Sailor of the Skies.....	Yonah
The Hardest Part of Love .....	Noah, Father
Ain't it Good.....	Mama, Company
In the Beginning.....	Company

## BAND

---

Music Director/Keyboard 1.....	<b>ANN-CAROL PENCE</b>
Keyboard 2.....	<b>ASHLEY PRINCE</b>
Percussion .....	<b>MARK BIERING OR LORENZO SANFORD</b>
Bass .....	<b>FUJI FUJIMOTO</b>
Guitar .....	<b>BRIAN SMITH</b>
Cello.....	<b>MIRO GOMEZ OR ALANA BENNETT</b>
French Horn .....	<b>DAVID MCCURLEY OR SHELLEY MILLER</b>
Woodwinds .....	<b>JOEL BARKER AND FELISHA JONES</b>



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## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**BRAD RAYMOND\* (Father)** is thrilled to be making his Aurora Theatre debut in this amazing production! Brad has performed as an actor, singer or conductor at some of the art world's most esteemed institutions including the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Light Opera Works of Chicago, the Ravinia Festival, Arena Stage, The Broad Stage, The Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Opera, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, Theater Emory, Horizon Theatre and Spivey Hall. Some of Brad's favorite roles include: Homer in *Lilies of the Field*, Fetch in *Fetch*, Clay in *Make Man*, Ronald in *Born For This* and his Suzi Bass Award winning performance as Blue in *Chasin Dem Blues*.



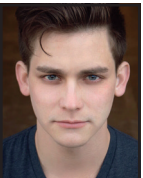
**MAXIM GUKHMAN\* (Adam/Noah, Fight Captain)** is excited to make his debut at the Aurora Theatre. His Atlanta credits include Atlanta Lyric Theatre: *Rent* (Mark), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Jimmy), *The Wedding Singer* (Glen). Actor's Express: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Andrew Jackson). Serenbe Playhouse: *Hair* (Berger). City Springs Theatre Company: *South Pacific* (Lt. Cable). Alliance: *Zorro* (Ensemble). Regional: *Grease* (Danny and Kenickie), *Royal Caribbean*, *West Side Story* (Tony, New London Barn), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Perchik, Fireside). Maxim thanks his wife and the Aurora Theatre creative team for the opportunity to be a part of one of his favorite musicals. [www.maximgukhman.com](http://www.maximgukhman.com) @mgukhman



**NAIMA CARTER RUSSELL\* (Eve/Mama)** is an Atlanta resident, FSU Alumna and a Suzi Bass Award winner for her role as Felicia Farrell in *Memphis* (Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit). Other regional credits include: *The Nacirema Society*...and *Christmas Carol* (Alliance Theatre); *Big Fish* and *Godspell* (Theatrical Outfit); *Tranced* and *Lark Eden* (Aurora Theatre); *Antigone* (Georgia Shakespeare), *Caroline*, or *Change* (St. Louis Black Rep), *Rejoice* (True Colors Theatre Company). Commercial credits include: Westwood College and GA Lotto. Film/TV credits include: "House of Payne", "Let's Stay Together", and "Banshee." Follow her as she does motherhood dramatically on IG: @itsthedramamama



**RUSSELL ALEXANDER II (Cain/Japeth)** is overjoyed to be back at Aurora Theatre in one of his all-time favorite musicals! The actor, singer, writer, & director is a Selma, AL native, & graduate of Aurora's AppCo18. He holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (2017). Some favorite credits include: *The Wiz* (Scarecrow) & *Memphis* (Gator)- Red Mountain Theatre, *Newsies* (Crutchie) & *Ripcord* (Scotty)- Aurora Theatre, & *Occupants* (La Chi Chi)- The Kennedy Center. Russell is immensely thankful to his family & friends for their undying love & support! [RussellAlexanderII.com](http://RussellAlexanderII.com) @\_alexanderii



**HADEN RIDER (Abel/Ham, Adam/Noah u/s)** is thrilled to be back at the Aurora Theatre and with such an incredible cast and crew! He is the Co-Founder/Director of Play On Players and a proud member of the Freddie G. Fellowship. He holds a BA in Theatre from Brenau University- Gainesville Theatre Alliance '14. Besides performing and directing, Haden is a self-employed vocal teacher/pedagog. Past Atlanta Credits: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* - Quasimodo [Suzi Bass Award, Outstanding Lead Actor- Musical] (Aurora/Theatrical Outfit), *Aida*- Radames (Atlanta Lyric), *Jesus Christ Superstar*- Jesus (Atlanta Lyric), *Next To Normal*- Gabe Goodman (WBTC), *Parade*- Tom Watson (WBTC)- Boundless thanks to the Aurora team and his family/friends for their love and support! [www.hadenrider.com](http://www.hadenrider.com)



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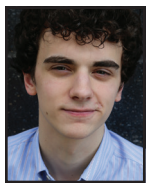
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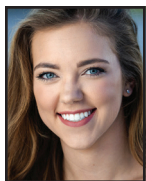
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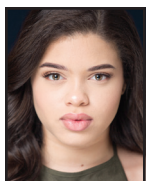


**ALEX HARDING (Seth/Shem)** is incredibly excited to be making his Aurora Theatre debut! He is currently a junior at Kennesaw State University studying Musical Theatre. His college credits include Bottom in *Spookyshakes* and Younger Brother in *Ragtime*. Recently, he portrayed Noah Claypole/Ensemble in The Lyric's production of *Oliver!* He would like to thank his family and friends for their never-ending love and support!



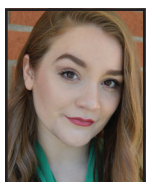
**LAUREN HILL (Aphra, Yonah/Snake u/s)**, an Atlanta native, is thrilled to make her Aurora Theatre debut! Lauren is a senior BFA Acting Major at Brenau University. Recent credits: *Aida* (Amneris) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) at the Atlanta Lyric, *Cabaret* (Texas/Dance Captain) and *Godspell* (Morgan) at the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. Thanks to the entire Children of Eden production team for the opportunity to tell this story! Love to her family, friends, and

Thomas! To God be the glory! IG: @lauren\_ehill



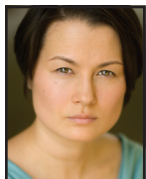
**BRIANA YOUNG (Yonah/Snake, Eve/Mama u/s)** is ecstatic to return to Aurora's stage as an alumna of the AppCo19. You may have recently seen her Aurora's productions of *Newsies*, *Christmas Canteen* and *Festival de MicroTeatro*. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia where she earned her B.A. in Theatre and A.B. in Journalism. Favorite theatre credits include: *You Can't Take It with You* (Alice), *A Lesson Before Dying* (Vivian), *Aida* (Aida), and *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel). Much love to

her parents and the Aurora for their unwavering belief and support. [brianaeyoung.com](http://brianaeyoung.com)



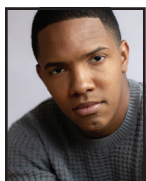
**CHLOE CORDLE\* (Aysha/Snake)** is thrilled to be back at the Aurora! Previous Atlanta credits: *Men with Money*, *Mamma Mia!* (Aurora Theatre), *Parade* (Wallace Buice Theatre Company), *Oliver!*, *Aida*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *My Fair Lady*, *The World Goes Round* (Atlanta Lyric). Choreography credits: *Next to Normal* (Wallace Buice), *Ragtime* (Asst./Serenbe Playhouse), *Oliver!* (Atlanta Lyric), *Disaster!* (Pace Academy), *Mary Poppins* (Paideia). Training: Florida School of

the Arts/Gainesville Theatre Alliance. Special thanks to her sissy, Chels, and her mum and pops for all of their love and support xx.



**LESLIE BELLAIR\* (Storyteller/Snake)** is over the moon to be back on the Aurora stage. Her last role here was Eponine in *Les Misérables*, for which she earned a Suzi Bass Award. Before that was Connie in *A Chorus Line* and Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain* (Suzi Bass Award nomination). Other notable Atlanta credits - Horizon Theatre: Mayor/Ma in *The Toxic Avenger* (Suzi Bass Award), Christmas Eve in *Avenue Q* (Suzi Bass Award); Atlanta Lyric Theatre: title role in *Peter Pan*, Kala

in *Tarzan*; Alliance Theatre: title role in *Mulan*. TV/VO: voice of Snowflake in CBS special "An Elf's Story", based on *The Elf on the Shelf*; narrator of GPB documentary "Chinese Tea"; over 60 audiobook narrations on Audible.com. Proud member of Actors' Equity.



**MICHAEL CRUTE (Storyteller, Snake, Cain/Japeth u/s)** is honored to be making his professional acting debut at Aurora Theatre. An actor and singer-songwriter raised in Metro-Atlanta. He loves to do work and share stories that challenge our hearts and minds to lean into the tension. Currently enrolled at the University of Georgia, Michael will graduate this year with his B.A in Advertising & a certificate in Music Business.





**JOHN FISCIAN (Storyteller)** is thrilled to make his Aurora Theatre debut! Atlanta: *Oliver!* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Singin' in the Rain* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *South Pacific* (City Springs Theatre), *West Side Story* (The Atlanta Opera), *Aida* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre). Regional: *Wasted Love* (New York Live Arts), *Aida* (Little Theatre of the Rockies), *Dreamgirls* (Interlakes Summer Theatre). John received his BA in Musical Theatre from the University of Northern Colorado. He thanks

God, his friends, family, and this phenomenally written musical for showing him that you can always be "close to home" with a creative life at age 13. Love always. @jfiscian



**WILLIS HAO (Storyteller, Snake)** is a rising senior at Emory University pursuing a BA in Theater and a minor in Dance while being a Pre-Med student. He is ecstatic to be returning to the Aurora Theater in *Children of Eden*. He has recently been seen around Atlanta in *Men With Money* (Ensemble), *Spring Awakening* (Moritz), *Water By The Spoonful* (Orangutan), and *Heathers the Musical* (Ensemble). Beyond theater, he is regularly seen teaching classical Chinese dance at the

Eve Hao Dance Studio. He is beyond thankful for the Aurora team and his constant support from his loved ones!



**TERELYN JONES (Storyteller)** received her BFA from Howard University. She joined Garth Fagan Dance Company and toured nationally for two years. Expounding on her skills and talents, she was cast as an aerialist and ensemble dancer in *Disney's Tarzan*, in Germany. She has also performed lead role as Mary in *The Black Nativity* for 3 years. Terelyn has made appearances on popular television series such as TV One's "One Christmas" with Anthony

Hamilton and other popular programs on VH1 and Lifetime. She has been commis-

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sioned to choreograph for universities across the country and musicals for various production companies. At Aurora, she was most recently in *Men with Money* and is excited to be back for *Children of Eden*! @lam\_TereLyn

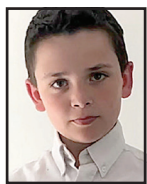


**OLIVIA ZIMMERMAN (Storyteller, Snake u/s)** is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a BA in Dance and minor in Nutrition, and a recent graduate of Aurora's AppCo19. In the past year, you may have seen her in *Newsies* (Bowery Beauty, Nun, Newsie), *Christmas Canteen* (swing), or *Men with Money* (ensemble). Love to Mom, Dad, Brandon, and Granny! [www.olivialeezimmerman.com](http://www.olivialeezimmerman.com) IG:olivialeezimmerman



**CALEB BAUMANN (Young Cain)** is so excited to make his Aurora Theatre debut! Alliance Theatre: *The Jungle Book* (Mogli), *Winnie the Pooh* (Christopher Robin), *Shakespeare in Love* (Webster), *A Christmas Carol* (Daniel, Turkey Lad), *Where Butterflies go in Winter* (Lil' Lou) Serenbe Playhouse: *Shenandoah* (Gabriel) Alliance Theatre Youth Players: *A Wrinkle in Time* (Charles Wallace Murry), *Around Atlanta on \$80* (Yokan) Legacy Theatre: *The Lion King Jr.* (Timon).

Caleb thanks his friends, family, and teachers for their never-ending support. Thanks so much to Justin and the Aurora for this opportunity! [www.calebbaumann.com](http://www.calebbaumann.com) @\_cbaumann



**JJ JONES (Young Abel)** is thrilled to be making his Aurora Theatre debut. Previous credits at small local theatres include: *Poor Baby in Whistle Down the Wind*, *Bubba Buzzard in Sleeping Beauty Musical*, and Leroy Herdman in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Film credits include: Young Boyd Mitchler in *A MERRY FIRGGIN' CHRISTMAS*. Thank you to his family for supporting this passion, and he hopes you enjoy the show!

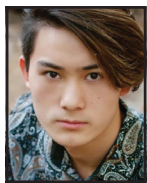


**NOAH POPP (Young Cain)** Aurora Theatre Debut! Atlanta: *Oliver!* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *The Secret Garden* (Reinhardt University), *Aladdin Jr.*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *Seussical Jr.*, *Honk! Jr.*, *James and The Giant Peach Jr.* (Off Broadway Children's Theatre). New York: *Junie B Jones Jr.*, *Newsies Jr.* (Workshop production, ITheatrics). Special thanks to: Mr. Brian Osborne, Sorsha Masters, Jason Cohen, Chris Mayer and Orbit Arts Academy.



**JACKSON WILLIAMS (Young Abel)** is excited to return to Aurora Theatre. His previous role as Les in Disney's *Newsies* was an incredible experience with Aurora and the Atlanta Lyric. Jackson is a rising 6th grader at Hebron Christian Academy. He also studies acting at The Actor's Scene in Buford, GA. Jackson has appeared in several commercials, small films and print work throughout his acting career. Other than acting, Jackson enjoys boy scouts, swimming and rocking

out in band class at North Georgia Dance and Music Factory.



**KEVIN DAKAKE (Storyteller/Snake u/s)**, was born in a cave, outside Luoyang, Henan, China and adopted at 13 by his American family from Dallas, GA. He recently graduated from North Cobb Christian School and was a 5 year competition dancer with CKDanceWorks in Dallas, GA and a member of Impact Dance of Atlanta's Conservatory Ballet. Was last seen in Aurora's *Newsies* (Specs/Brooklyn Ensemble) and is so blessed to be in *Children of Eden*! Bilingual in Mandarin

and English, loves spending time with his Shih Tzu, AnaLi. Following this show, the

path takes him to Frisco, TX as a Trainee with The Joffrey Ballet. Kevin's goals are to remain humble, work hard, and to respect others. Above all, he aims to glorify God for his life's path through his gift of performing! He thanks his family, instructors and especially Justin and AC for pouring so much into his life and giving him life-changing opportunities!



**DAISEAN GARRETT (Father u/s)** is a graduate of the University of Alabama Birmingham, where he received his BA in Theatre. Alumni of Aurora's AppCo18. His truest passion is performance and his most recent credits include *Red Mountain: Memphis*, *BCT: And in this corner "Cassius Clay"* Aurora: *Mamma Mia*, *Ripcord (u/s)*, *Cinderella The Remix*, *Christmas Canteen*, and Aurora and Theatrical Outfit's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Additional: *King/Conceited Man* in *The Little Prince*, *Major Magnus* in *The Real Inspector Hound*, and *Mr. Kirby* in *You Can't Take It with You*. He sends thanks to his loving support system especially his mom! Follow him on Instagram @daiseangarrett or @act.sean



**TORREKE EVANS (Storyteller)**, Atlanta native is a former student at McDaniel College in Maryland where he studied English and Theatre. He has performed in plays like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Actor's Nightmare* and *Hair*. He also spent a summer with the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company of Massachusetts where he played the title character in *King Henry VI pt 3*. He is grateful for his supportive friends and family and beyond ready to embark on the AppCo20 journey. #BLM

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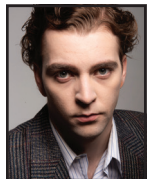


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**ANDREW LAMPLEY (Storyteller, Abel/Ham & Seth/Shem u/s)** is from Benton, Illinois. He recently graduated from Southern Illinois University- Carbonale with his BFA in Musical Theatre. Some of his favorite collegiate credits were *Sunday in the Park with George* (George), *Pippin* (Charlemagne), *Punk Rock* (Nicholas), and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Aster). He is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Children of Eden* for his first main stage performance as part of

Aurora's AppCo20! Andrew would like to thank his friends, family, and mentors who made it possible for him to be here in the lovely Lawrenceville.



**SARAH NATHANSON (Storyteller, Aphra & Aysha u/s)** is a graduate of Oberlin College & Conservatory where she earned a B.A. in Theatre and a minor in Dance. She spent a semester at the LaMama Experimental Theatre Club in Manhattan, where she studied devised performance art and developed her own original work. She also trained at the British American Drama Academy in London and was a Core Company member at The Orchard Project in Saratoga Springs.

Sarah is thrilled to be joining AppCo20 this season.



**MICHE' SMITH (Storyteller)** is thrilled to be making her Atlanta debut joining Aurora's AppCo20! She recently graduated from Troy University receiving a BFA in Dance and a BS in Theatre. Her favorite roles so far include *A Doll's House* (Nora), *Flyin' West* (Minnie Dove Charles), *The Little Mermaid* (Flotsam), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Curtis). She also spent the summer of 2018 dancing in Vertical Impact, a new show at Cedar Point. She has been seen in numerous

dance productions at Troy where she performed and choreographed. Miche' looks forward to continue honing her crafts at Aurora and wants to thank her family and friends for all their support!



**BRANDON M. WEBER (Storyteller)**, is a New Orleans native, graduated from The University of the Arts with a BFA in Musical Theatre, and a proud member of Aurora's AppCo20. You may have seen him in the National tour of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*, the world premiere musical *The New World* (Bucks County Playhouse), Off-Broadway in *Owen & Mzee* (Vital Theatre Company), the workshop productions of *The Total Bent* (The Public Theater/UArts) or *Huzzah!* (Williamstown

Theatre Festival). He is extremely grateful to make his Aurora Theatre debut with such an outstanding creative team and cast.



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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

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**STEPHEN SCHWARTZ (Composer & Lyricist)** wrote the music and lyrics for the current Broadway hit *Wicked*, and has also contributed music and/or lyrics to *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *The Magic Show*, *The Baker's Wife*, *Working* (which he also adapted and directed), *Rags*, and *Children of Eden*. He collaborated with Leonard Bernstein on the English texts for Bernstein's *MASS* and wrote the title song for the play and movie *BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE*. For children, he has written songs for two musicals, *Captain Louie* and *My Son Pinnochio*. He has also worked in film, collaborating with Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's *ENCHANTED* as well as the animated features *POCAHONTAS* and *THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME*, and writing the songs for the DreamWorks animated feature *THE PRINCE OF EGYPT*. His first opera, *Seance on a Wet Afternoon*, was produced at Opera Santa Barbara and New York City Opera. A book about his career, *Defying Gravity* has been released by Applause Books. Mr. Schwartz has been inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and has been given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Awards include three Academy Awards, four Grammy Awards, and a tiny handful of tennis trophies.

**JOHN CAIRD (Book)** is an author and director working in theatre, opera and musical theatre in London, New York, Tokyo and all around the world. Published works with MTI include *Les Misérables* (Schools Edition), *Children of Eden* (with music by Stephen Schwartz) *Jane Eyre* (with music by Paul Gordon) and his own new version of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* (originally performed at the National Theatre in London). Recent Productions include: *Tosca* (Houston Grand Opera), *Daddy Long Legs* (Off-Broadway), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Stratford Festival), *McQueen* (Haymarket Theatre, West End) *Twelfth Night* (Nissay Theatre, Tokyo) *Tosca* and *Parsifal* (Lyric Opera, Chicago), *La Bohème* (San Francisco Opera), *Gertrud* (Royal Dramatic Theatre, Stockholm). Notable Engagements for the RSC include: Over twenty productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, (RST) *Romeo and Juliet* (TOP) *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* (Aldwych Theatre and Broadway) *Les Misérables* (Barbican, Palace Theatre, Broadway and worldwide). Notable Engagements for the National Theatre include: *Hamlet*, *Humbleboy*, *Stanley*, *The Seagull* and his own new version of Bernstein's *Candide* among many others. Elsewhere: *Dance of Death*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Royal Dramatic Theatre, Stockholm) *Brief Encounter* (Houston Grand Opera). He has won numerous awards including Olivier Awards for *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Candide*, and Tony Awards for *Les Misérables* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. Caird's book about directing - *THEATRE CRAFT* - is published by Faber & Faber in London and New York. Go to [johncaird.com](http://johncaird.com) for more information about his career.

**JUSTIN ANDERSON (Associate Artistic Director/Director)** See Aurora Theatre Staff Biographies

**ANN-CAROL PENCE (Associate Producer/Co-Founder/Music Director)** See Aurora Theatre Staff Biographies

**RICARDO APONTE (Choreographer)** *Men with Money*, *Newsies*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *In the Heights* (Aurora Theatre). *Frozen Jr* (City Springs Theatre), *The Buddy Holly Story*, *Once On This Island* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), *The Wedding Singer*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Atlanta Lyric), *The Lizard and El Sol*, and *James and the Giant Peach* (Alliance Theatre), *The Dancing Handkerchief* (Theatrical Outfit), *Rocky Horror Show*, and *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Actor's Express), *1001 Nights*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (Center for Puppetry Arts) among other productions.

**KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS\* (Resident Stage Manager)** See Aurora Theatre Staff Biographies



**SHANNON ROBERT\*\* (Scenic Designer)** serves on the design faculty at Clemson University, and is a proud member of USA 829. She received the M.F.A. in scene design from Florida State University and studied at the Moscow Art Theatre Conservatory in 1991. She served KCACTF as Region IV design chair, regional vice chair, and on national design committees, and was on the board of directors and executive committee of SETC. She managed the paint/craft departments of The Spoon Group Productions (NJ/NY), and fabricated props/painted for the Broadway productions of *The Grinch*, *Grease*, *Xanadu*, *Legally Blonde*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Pirate Queen*, *Coram Boy*, *The Color Purple*, *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*, and *Hairspray*. With Worklight Productions/Technical Theatre Solutions, she painted the national tours of *Cinderella*, *In the Heights*, *Mamma Mia!* (Vegas) and *Something Rotten*. For TTS Studios, she painted the London Barbican and US tours of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She has designed for The Warehouse Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Cincinnati Shakespeare, Theatrical Outfit, Salt Lake Acting Company, The Tennessee Williams Festival (Provincetown) Actor's Express, Mill Mountain Theatre, Synchronicity Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, New Stage Theatre, The Peace Center (Gala), and numerous universities and dance companies. Shannon was the Associate Artistic Director and Scene Designer in Residence for The Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, SC. She received Atlanta's 2014, 2016, and 2018 Suzi Bass Awards for best set design for a musical for Aurora's *Mary Poppins*, *In the Heights*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Most recently, Shannon was one of 50 American designers selected for the PQ 2019 Exhibition in Prague as part of the USITT Transformations Exhibit. She was recently awarded a \$50,000 innovation grant from USITT.

**MARIA CRISTINA FUSTÉ\*\* (Lighting Designer)** Theatre: *Sweat* directed by Elena Aroz (People's Light Theater, PA), *Anna in the Tropics* directed by Rebecca Martínez (Colorado Spring Performing Arts Center, CO), *The Heath* (MRT, Lowell MA), *In The Heights* (Wesport Country Playhouse, CT), *Mud* and *The Conduct of*

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*Life* by María Irene Fornés, and *Prospect* by Octavio Solis, all directed by Elena Araoz (BOUNDLESS theatre company, NYC), *Newsies* (Aurora Theatre and Atlanta Lyric, GA), *ABIGAIL/1702* (MRT, Lowell MA), *In the Heights* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Aurora Theatre and Theatrical Outfit, Atlanta GA). **Opera:** *Cecilia Valdés* (Teatro Colón, Bogotá Colombia). *Tosca*, *Bluebeard's Castle*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Don Pasquale*, and *L'Elisir d'Amore*, all directed by Gilberto Valenzuela (Ópera de Puerto Rico, San Juan PR). **Training:** BA in theater University of Puerto Rico, MFA in Lighting Design from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. **Awards:** Princess Grace Award recipient/ Pierre Cardin Award in Theater 2018, Suzi Bass Award in 2016 and 2017 for Outstanding Lighting Design on a Musical (Atlanta, GA). She is also the founder and Executive Artistic Director of Boundless Theatre Company. Website: [www.mcfuste.com](http://www.mcfuste.com).

**DANIEL TERRY (Sound Designer)** is thrilled to be back at Aurora working on another blockbuster show! He has nearly ten years of professional experience working in the Atlanta theatre community for companies that include the Alliance Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Actor's Express, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, and Aurora Theatre. He had the pleasure to be a staff member with Aurora Theatre for 5 years—three years as Assistant Technical Director, and two years as Technical Director. Daniel is currently working at Kennesaw State University in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies from which he holds a BA, graduating in 2011. Much love to my beautiful wife Marsha, thanks for all your support!

**ALAN YEONG\*\* (Costume Designer)** is honored to be a part of *Children of Eden*. Alan is lucky to be collaborating with an amazing production design team and acting company. Alan is a Professor of Costume Design at The University of West Georgia during the day, occasionally freelancing with metro Atlanta theatre companies for the past 17 years. He recently was honored with 2016 Broadway World Atlanta Regional Best Professional Costume Design for a Musical for *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe Playhouse). Several Suzi Bass Award nominations - *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit), *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe Playhouse), *Les Misérables* (Aurora Theatre), *The Little Foxes* (Theatre in the Square). Also a special thank you to Aurora Theatre for believing in my work. Special thanks to all of his friends, colleagues, students, and University of West Georgia Theatre Arts Department for allowing him to continually be part of the vibrant metro Atlanta theatre community. Alan is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 Come visit, [alanyeong.com](http://alanyeong.com)

**CAROLINE CALDWELL\* (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a graduate of The University of Georgia and a proud Aurora AppCo17 Alumni. Favorite Aurora Credits include: *In The Heights*, *Christmas Canteen 2016*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Newsies*, and *Men With Money*. Caroline is the Production Manager at Georgia Ensemble Theatre. Huge hugs to Dad, Mom, and sisters.

**RACHAEL KARAS (Assistant to the Costume Designer)** is a proud alumni of both The University of West Georgia and Aurora's AppCo20. She is so excited to continue her work with Aurora on *Children of Eden*. Her previous Aurora credits include *Frozen Jr.* (Costume Designer), *Native Gardens* (Assistant to the Costume Designer) and *Men With Money* (Assistant to the Costume Designer and Wig Designer).

**JENNIFER ACKLAND (Costume Shop Manager)** is happy to be back at the Aurora Theatre. She was previously Costume Shop Manager and Draper for the 2014 production of *Newsies* and *Mary Poppins* at Aurora. Most recently she served as Costume Shop Supervisor at Appalachian State University in Boone NC. Other notable Costume Shop Supervisor positions include Wake Forest University, Festival Stage of Winston-Salem, and The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival where she

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spent almost ten years as Assistant Shop Manager and then promoted to Costume Director in 2009 until its closing in 2014. She would like to thank her family for all that they do and a big thanks to Dave McKay and Christina Cotner for helping with a smooth transition to Georgia.

**ANSLEIGH HARRISON (Costume Apprentice)** is a Lawrenceville native and a recent graduate of Piedmont College with a BA in Theatre Arts. She began working with costumes during her time at Piedmont and designed several shows there, including *The Shadow Box* and *Crimes of the Heart*, as well as *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at North Georgia Theatre. When she's not

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sewing or designing, Ansleigh enjoys performing, reading and watching movies. Ansleigh is very excited to join AppCo19!

**LINDSEY EWING (Wig/Beard Designer)** is a wigmaker, wigmaster, and makeup artist. She is a graduate of The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she received her bachelor's in fine arts degree (concentration in Wig and Makeup design) in 2008. Included in Lindsey's work experience are such companies as Sarasota Opera Co., Opera Carolina, Piedmont Opera, Utah Shakespeare Festival, The Spoleto Festival, Playmaker's Rep, The University of Maryland, City Springs Theatre, Kennesaw State University, Oglethorpe University, The Atlanta Opera, and Serenbe Playhouse. Currently, she is the resident Wigmaster at The Alliance Theatre, in Atlanta. [www.LEHairandMakeupArtistry.com](http://www.LEHairandMakeupArtistry.com)

**CODY RUSSELL (Properties Designer)** is an AppCo17 grad and returning to Aurora to work on *Children of Eden*. Past prop design credits include: *Wrinkle in Time*, *Junie B. Jones...* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), *Christmas Canteen*, *Be Here Now*, *Throw Me on the Burnpile...*, *Ontario was Here*, *Goosebumps the Musical* (Aurora Theatre). In addition to Prop and scenic design he enjoys teaching young talent with the Aurora academy, Shakespeare Tavern, and Alliance Drama camp or performing, most recently on stage as Cooper Barlow in 7stage's *Angry Fags*.

**LENA ARMAS (Stage Management Apprentice)** is thrilled to be making her Atlanta debut in Aurora Theatre's AppCo 2020! She is a recent graduate of Western Carolina University in North Carolina with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre. During her time at WCU, she participated both on the stage and backstage. Most recently, she was Chip in *Beauty and the Beast*, directed by Hunter Foster, as well as the Stage Manager for *God Save Gertrude*, directed by Ashlee Wasmund. Lena is excited to delve into another passion of hers

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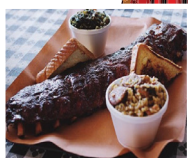
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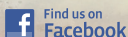
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while being surrounded by a great team of artists. She would love to thank her family, friends, Phi Mu sisters, and mentors at WCU for constantly believing in her and pushing her to be the best version of herself.

**NICOLE KISS (Technical Theatre Apprentice)** is excited to be joining this year's Apprentice Company. She is a recent graduate from the University of West Georgia where she earned her BA in Theatre. During her time there she took on several projects including Lighting Design, and Stage Management. Some of her most recent credits include Lighting Design of *She Kills Monsters* and *Speech and Debate*.

**SARAH THOMSON (Scenic Painter)** loves to paint and has enjoyed over 20 seasons with Aurora Theatre. In a previous life, she was the scenic artist for Casa Mañana Theatre, Casa on the Square, Fort Worth Ballet, Dallas Shakespeare in the Park, Dallas Summer Musicals and Six Flags. She has worked with Southwest Studios and Stageworks where she served as scenic artist. She is accompanied by her man of the North, Ian.

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## AURORA THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

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**ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ (Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder)** Aurora Theatre opened in the summer of 1996 and Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence established Aurora Theatre, Inc. as a non-profit organization in 1999. Under their leadership, the theatre grew from 120 season subscribers to the 5100 subscribers Aurora Theatre currently boasts. Aurora's success led to an ABBY Award nomination in 2002 for Arts Professional of the Year. Mr. Rodriguez's greatest accomplishment to date was the successful negotiation to relocate Aurora Theatre to downtown Lawrenceville, Georgia where it serves as the cornerstone for their revitalization. This nearly \$7.5 million complex houses 2 theatres, rehearsal space and offices and opened in the spring of 2007. Aurora's accomplishments include: Learning Library, an Educational Theatre Program, Aurora's Apprenticeship for recent college graduates, Aurora Academy and Conservatory where students learn about theatre from working professionals, Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight an annual outdoor summer concert, Cabaret and Comedy Series musical and stand-up comedy evenings between mainstage events, and Teatro Aurora, a professional Spanish-language theatre company that was created to highlight Latino cultural heritage and to help build social bridges in our community. Anthony is past Chair of Partnership Gwinnett and past Chair of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, where he was the first Latino and Arts leader to serve in that position. Mr. Rodriguez is a member of Screen Actor's Guild, Theatre Communications Group, Duluth Rotary Club, and serves on the national steering committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Marist High School, the University of Georgia with a BFA in theatre, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute and the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures' Leadership Institute and Advocacy Institute. Mr. Rodriguez is a Cancer Survivor and has been cancer free for 28 years.

**ANN-CAROL PENCE (Associate Producer/Co-Founder)** arranged the music for Aurora's first *Christmas Canteen* in 1996 and was hired full-time in September of 1998 as Resident Musical Director. An education major at James Madison University, she used her background to develop Learning Library (or L2). As a musician, she created Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight, and Aurora's New Musical Initiative. She has performed as pianist and/or music director both nationally (Goodspeed Opera House, Pasadena Playhouse, The Cleveland Playhouse, The Kennedy Center) and locally (The Alliance, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, The Horizon). As a proud citizen of Gwinnett, Ann-Carol is most proud of Aurora Theatre winning the first ever Pinnacle Award for Large Non-Profit. This goes well with her 5 Suzi Awards for Outstanding Music Direction for *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, Aurora's world premiere of *Clyde 'n Bonnie: A Folktale*, and *A Catered Affair* and her multiple nominations for *In the Heights*, *Memphis*, *A Year with Frog & Toad*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Godspell*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *A Chorus Line*. Currently, Ann-Carol is a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Selection Committee, reading 40-50 new musicals each year. She was a proud participant in the 2016 Atlanta Regional Leadership Institute and member of the "Best Class Ever!"

**JUSTIN ANDERSON (Associate Artistic Director)** has served as Aurora Theatre's Associate Artistic Director since 2014. His directorial work has earned Ten Suzi Bass Award Nominations for Outstanding Direction (Winner for *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Les Misérables* at Aurora Theatre, in 2017 and 2013 respectively). He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia where he directs and

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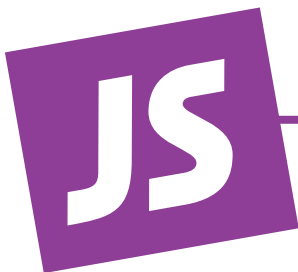
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teaches courses in acting and musical theatre. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Campbell University and an M.A. in Theatre Studies from Regent University, with additional course study at Rutgers.

**DAVID KOTÉ (Director of Education)** is an award winning theatre director, actor, and educator. He began at Tri-Cities High School of Visual and Performing Arts and the acclaimed Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble of Atlanta. Koté earned a B.A. degree in speech and theatre arts from Dillard University and M.F.A. in directing from Indiana University. His theatre credits include *Jitney*, *Pill Hill*, *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Purlie*, *Flyin' West*, *Once on this Island*, *Times*, *The Last Season*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *My Children! My Africa!*, and *Macbeth*. He has also appeared in HBO's *A LESSON BEFORE DYING*, CBS's "Mama Flora's Family" and TNT's "Passing Glory". He has performed in South Africa, Belgium, Amsterdam and all over the United States. Koté served as Director of Theatre Arts at Tri-Cities High School Visual and Performing Arts Magnet where he received many awards for his work including The Charles Loridans Foundation for excellence and leadership in theatre education. Koté's production of *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express is the 2019 Suzi Bass Award winner for Outstanding Production Musical and Outstanding Direction Musical.

**JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA (Director of Cross-Cultural Programs)** has been with Aurora since December 2016. He spent the previous decade in Jacksonville, FL as the Education Director at Theatre Jacksonville, where he also handled the design of all marketing collateral and general marketing for the theatre's education programming. He served as a grant panelist for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, was a member of ACE (Arts and Continuing Education) Jacksonville, and founder of Theatre Jacksonville/Cathedral Arts Project/The Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Program's Autism Outreach in the Performing Arts. Most recently he is so honored to have served as an Endowment Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to his work in education, he has spent much of the last decade performing and directing. Notable credits include *Into the Woods* (The Baker), *The Light in the Piazza* (Fabrizio), *In the Heights* (Piragua Guy), *Pippin* (Pippin), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch), *Tick, Tick, BOOM!* (Jonathan), guest artist roles with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and First Coast Opera, and most recently in BUICentennial Productions' *Songs for a New World*.

**RENITA JAMES (Education Coordinator)** is a proud graduate of AppCo 2013. It was during that year that she furthered her love of educational theatre while performing in *Unnecessary Monsters* and teaching several classes and workshops. Upon completion of her apprenticeship Renita performed with theatres across the country. She also completed a teaching artist fellowship with Metro Theater Company, before returning home Atlanta. Renita currently heads up Teen Nation, Aurora's program exclusively for teens, and works closely with our educational partners. Some of her favorite acting credits include: *FML: How Carson McCullers Saved My Life* (7 stages), *Once Upon A Mattress* (Stage Door Players), and *The 12 Dates Of Christmas* (Aurora).

**D.H. MALCOLM, III (General Manager)** joined Aurora Theatre part-time in 2007 as the bookkeeper and business manager for the new facility. Now in charge of day-to-day operations, D.H. manages the Aurora Theatre budget, spearheads development and provides the theatre with sound business advice. His background includes graduating from Marist School, obtaining a BS from Duke University and later an MBA from Georgia State University. D.H. has extensive management experience in both entrepreneurial and large businesses. He serves on the board of the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Lawrenceville. In his other

life, he is an avid golfer and a professional club fitter for Callaway Golf. D.H. has two wonderful children, Katie and Cam.

**KELLY CRISS (Director of Corporate & Individual Giving)** has been working in Atlanta for a little over a decade as an Arts Administrator, Actor, Director, Producer, and Teaching Artist. She joins the Aurora Theatre team after serving as Manager of Special Projects at the High Museum of Art. Before the High, she worked at Horizon Theatre in various capacities including artistic support, mentoring the apprentice company, and as the primary coordinator for the Young Playwrights Festival. Kelly currently teaches beginning acting courses for teens at the Alliance Theatre. She also taught elementary aged children through adult professionals here at the Aurora Theatre with both the after school and summer drama academy programs. Additionally, Kelly is a founding member and former producer with the Weird Sisters Theatre Project, where she currently serves on the Board of Directors

**SHELLI DELGADO (Development Coordinator)** graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Georgia with BA degrees in both Theatre and English Studies. Shortly after, she joined the 2013-14 Aurora Theatre Apprentice Company and has since worked as a professional actor and education artist in and around the metro-Atlanta area. Since 2014, Shelli has worked directly with the Alliance Theatre as a resident teaching artist and script/curriculum writer. In 2016, she co-produced, developed and wrote *Quarter Life\**, an Atlanta-based web series which became an official selection for the Acme Comedy Film Festival, the New Haven International Film Festival and the Atlanta Underground Film Festival, among others. Shelli has spent the last two years serving as co-producer for the Weird Sisters Theatre Project, a local theatre company who seeks to create "theatre by women, for everyone". She is thrilled to join her Aurora family with this new position.

**KATIE PELKEY (Company Manager)** is celebrating twelve seasons with Aurora! In 2013, Katie transitioned to the role of Company Manager, having previously served as Resident Stage Manager. She also created the highly-successful Stage Management and Costume Apprentice programs that operates simultaneously with Aurora's Acting Apprentice Company program. For five seasons, she worked as Aurora's Educational Resources Associate developing educational curriculum for teachers to use in conjunction with Aurora's TYA Learning Library offerings. And for over a decade, Katie served as Production Stage Manager for New Plays for Young Audiences, a prestigious TYA summer staged reading series based at New York University. She received her BA in Educational Theatre from New York University with a minor in Dramatic Literature. Many thanks to Michael, Maxwell, and Alexander for their love and support!

**DANIEL POPE (Production Manager)** is proud to be a member of the team at Aurora Theatre as Production Manager. Daniel has been a sound designer and engineer in the Atlanta area for the past eight years. He's had the pleasure of designing sound for the Aurora Theatre on many occasions on shows such as: *Into the Woods*, *Christmas Canteen*, *Sweep*, and most recently *The Bridges of Madison County*. Additionally, he's worked on countless other productions in the Atlanta theatre community including: *Evita* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Sound Designer and Production Manager at Serenbe Playhouse. Daniel received a Bachelor's in Marketing with a specialization in sales and a minor in Music from The University of West Georgia in 2010.

**ANDREW O'NEAL (Technical Director)** is excited to be in his third season with Aurora Theatre. Andrew has been working in the field of technical theatre now for 15 years. Previously, Andrew came to Georgia from Virginia where he worked at



Radford University as the Assistant Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor. He graduated from The University of Alabama in 2014 with his MFA in technical production. ROLL TIDE YALL!!!

**JON SANDMAIER (Master Carpenter)** joins our staff after a year of working as an over-hire. After graduating from IPFW at the end of the last millennium, Jon spent most of his time designing and building sets for various arts organizations in and around Fort Wayne Indiana. He and his wife relocated to Georgia in the summer of 2016.

**KATIE ERIN CHAMBERS\* (Resident Stage Manager)** is excited to be in her 7th season with Aurora Theatre. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia, a member of Actor's Equity, and a proud alumna of Aurora's 2013-14 Apprentice Company. She has previously stage managed in Atlanta for Horizon Theatre Company, Theatrical Outfit, Synchronicity Theatre and Habima Theatre. She has also served as coordinator for the New South Young Playwrights' Festival, production manager for the Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival, and coordinator for the Atlanta Unified Auditions.

**AL STILO (Director of Sales & Marketing)**, now in his 15th season at Aurora Theatre, is proud to be a part of the fastest-growing theatre the region. During his tenure, Aurora Theatre has tripled its season ticket base, expanded programming to over 800 annual events, and become one of the most decorated arts organizations in the region. Al shares his knowledge and expertise both locally and nationally with presentations for organizations like ArtWorks! Gwinnett and the Americans for the Arts National Arts Marketing Project Conference. Al has received multiple professional distinctions for marketing from the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau, served three years on the executive committee of Atlanta Performs and two on the Board of Directors for Georgia Arts Network, your advocate for the arts in Georgia. Al has been a professional actor for 30 years, onstage at Aurora he has appeared in *The Explorers Club*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers* and several others. Al started his arts administration career with Soulstice Repertory Ensemble from 1995–2001 before serving as Sales Manager for Georgia Shakespeare from 2000–2004. All my love to my wife Holly and son Dominic.

**EB HOOYER (Marketing Coordinator)** has been with Aurora Theatre since 2011, working as a Stage Manager, Props Designer, and Box Office Manager before transitioning to Marketing in 2017. EB is proud to have created Aurora's Need a Little Christmas Giveaway, which has provided theatre tickets and dinner to families in need since 2013. She initiated Aurora's TIXSTER program for patrons age 16-35 and is on the board of Hoosier Shakes, a theatre company based out of her alma mater, Indiana Wesleyan University. EB loves laughing, tacos, her husband Jared, and their two rambunctious boys.

**ARÍ MCBRIDE (Graphic Designer/Marketing Associate)** is excited to start a fifth season with Aurora. Arí spent the previous 18 years working as Art Director in the Atlanta advertising industry. At Clockwork Advertising she had a blast as an instrumental part to the launch of Don Julio Tequila in the US (which came with its own perks). After starting a family, Arí went on her own to develop BoyMeetsGirl Creative, an 11-year marketing & design partnership servicing clients in the corporate world from Suntrust to local manufacturers like Biolab and the occasional start-up looking to find their spot in the marketplace. Ari is a graduate of The Atlanta College of Art & Design with a degree in Advertising Design—but has always had a deep love for the performing arts. Now at Aurora, Ari handles all branding, print and web design—adding a fresh and colorful perspective to all our programming. Ari, along with Aurora's savvy marketing, team helps promote our broad range of

now more than 800 events a year, creating memorable campaigns and eye-catching visuals that make Aurora one of a kind. She's blessed with a testosterone-heavy household, a messy house and lots of loving hugs before bedtime!

**JENNIFER OWENS (Box Office Manager)** is proud to be embarking on her 6th season at Aurora Theatre! After receiving her BFA in Acting from Brenau University in 2014, she set her sights on Aurora where she successfully became a part of the family in 2014. With a one-year-old in tow, she began as a part time Box Office Associate, later transitioning to Front of House Coordinator and Teaching Artist in 2016 and then finally the Box Office Manager and Marketing team member in June of 2017. You may have also seen her occasionally step out of the Box Office to perform in Prelude to the 4th Celebrations, Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight, or as an Improviser in Reindeer Games. A huge THANK YOU for the constant love and support of the Aurora Staff, Box Office team, Mom, and my little man, Truett.

**DAISIE AKKASHA (Front of House Manager)** is happy to be joining Aurora Theatre's staff as their first ever Front of House Manager. This is her fifth season with Aurora, having begun working with the Theatre in 2015 as a Box Office Associate. Aurora has become a home for her and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to help make magic happen with them. On her days off she enjoys spending time with her best friend, her German Shepherd, Goliath.

**BOX OFFICE & FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF** .....Amy Duffy, Elliott Folds, Nikki Greenfield, Aaliyah Heyward, Molly Huntington, Meg Johns, Conner Kocks, Robby Owenby, Shannon Roudebush, Jackelyn Segui, and Olivia Zimmerman



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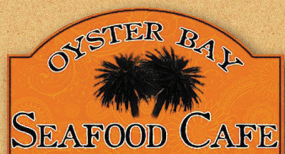
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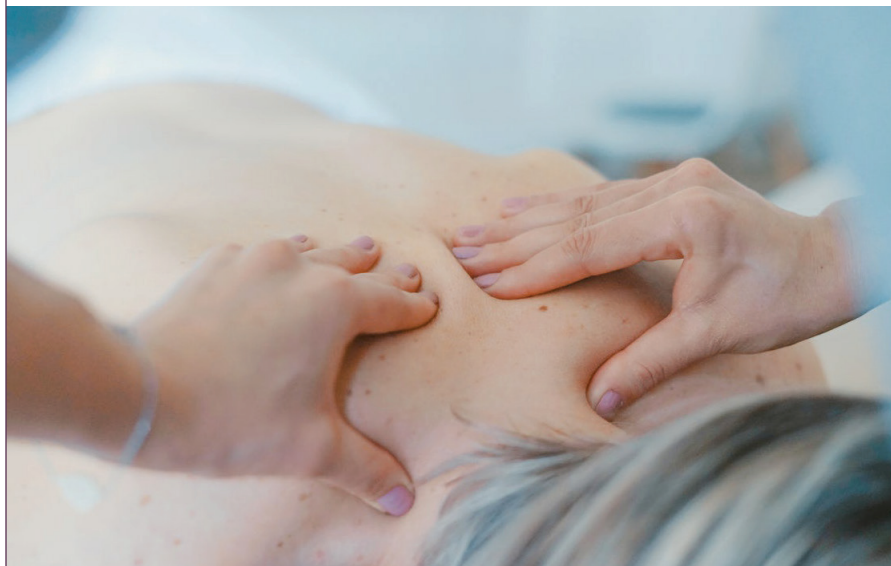
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### MISSION

Aurora Theatre is committed to producing quality, professional theatre for the Southeast, North Georgia, and our most ardent supporters, the residents of Gwinnett County. We will serve these communities by offering entertainment that nurtures a love of theatre and develops a new generation of theatregoers.



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