# LYRIC THEATRE OF OKLAHOMA



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# **Producing Artistic Director's Welcome**

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to live, professional theatre in Oklahoma and Lyric Theatre's 58th season! Founded in 1963, Lyric has produced theatre, right here in Oklahoma, for over seven decades! And, while things might be a bit more challenging this year, we are committed to creating the most dynamic and safe theatre for you and the people of our great state.

We learned a lot this past fall and winter producing theatre outdoors both here at Myriad Gardens and with our special production of Lyric's *A Christmas Carol* at the historic Harn Homestead. We learned not only how to produce and deliver theatre safely to you and your family. But, also how to create dynamic, new theatrical experiences that had audiences cheering for more. So, not to disappoint, we pivoted quickly and applied our new found knowledge to creating an entire theatrical season in the beautiful, safe outdoors all around our great city! In fact, Lyric is leading the outdoor performance movement this year along with theatres all over America doing this same! And, we are all are waiting until that triumphant moment when we will return to the indoor venues we know and love. This season was chosen to highlight the energy of Oklahoma City with fun, classic shows and new ones that will surprise and delight. And, most importantly, highlight the bright future that lays ahead for Lyric Theatre, the arts, and all of us!

To kick us off, I've invited two of my favorite artists to create the magical performance you are about to experience. One that not only celebrates our return to live performances, but celebrates the power of live music, and the career of a musical theatre legend ... Ms. Denise Lee. Both fabulous and funny, Denise brings a positive and uplifting artistic voice to the stage here at Lyric, Dallas' theatrical community, and audiences across the nation. She has been a calming and supportive voice for not only me, but artistic directors who have had the pleasure of working with her during this past year. I am so thankful she agreed to create this new show just for Lyric audiences with her wonderful director, Monique Midgette. I can't begin to tell you how exciting it is to put our artists back to work directing, performing, writing new scripts, rehearsing music and designing new sets, lights and costumes. Just wait till you see Ms. Lee's stunning gown!

And, we are just at the beginning! You can still subscribe and enjoy 3, 4, or even all 5 of our 2021 productions at a substantial savings this season. Each and every unique production is a must see! From this spring's hysterical musical *Nunsense* at Myriad Gardens, to this June's spectacular production of *Grease* at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School's Pribil FOOTBALL STADIUM. Followed by the Tony Award-winning play, *Master Class*, inspired by the greatest of opera divas Maria Callas and featuring live opera under the stars at Myriad Gardens. Then, in a full-circle moment, we are back where our outdoor adventures began .... at the Harn Homestead for the nationally-acclaimed, immersive production of Lyric's *A Christmas Carol*.

We are here because of you and the support of our great city during this challenging year. We are Oklahoma Strong onstage and off throughout the year. I thank you for believing in Lyric and the importance of the arts – especially during these most unusual times. Now, get ready to live joyously again with Ms. Denise Lee, and four amazing musicians!

Cheers! – Michael

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### LYRIC THEATRE OF OKLAHOMA

#### MICHAEL BARON, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JIM REYNOLDS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

PRESENT



#### **CO-WRITTEN BY DENISE LEE & MONIQUE MIDGETTE**

SCENIC DESIGNER **KIMBERLY POWERS** ^ COSTUME DESIGNER JEFFREY MEEK LIGHTING DESIGNER Fabian J. Garcia

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ADAM BRAND SOUND DESIGNER Corey Ray MUSICAL DIRECTOR NORMAN WILLIAMS

PRODUCTION Stage Manager Gabriella Trevino-Bandy

DIRECTED BY Monique Midgette+

+Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) ^ Member of United Scenic Artists (USA)







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(Photo by K. Talley Photography.)



# Who's Who in the Cast

Denise Lee	as Herself
Norman Williams	Musical Director
Lawrence "Peebody" Ferrell Jr	Drums
Brady Mosher	Guitar
Clinton Trench	Bass

# **Production Staff**

Assistant Stage Managers	Liv McIntosh, Emmett Reese
Deck Technicians	Josie Walley, Ryne Siler
Wardrobe Supervisor	Alix Phelan
Stitcher	Christina Draper

# The Cast & Band

**DENISE LEE** is an award-winning actress and singer whose powerful voice, warm and friendly demeanor and her sassy performance style has charmed theater, nightclub and television audiences for more than three decades. And she is thrilled to be back at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. She is the founder and Executive Producer of the Denise Lee Onstage Cabaret Series and the Dallas Cabaret Festival featuring the best in Dallas based and National Cabaret Artists. For her one woman shows 'Divas of American Music' and 'Too Old, Too Fat, Too Black - Songs I'll Never Sing On Broadway" she was awarded Broadway World Awards for Best Cabaret Performer. She is also the recipient of the Sammons Center for the Arts Cabaret Artist of the Year and multiple Dallas Theater Critic Forum and Dallas Readers Voice Awards. Lee has recently added 'playwright' to her list of accomplishments. Her first play 'Funny, You Don't Act Like A Negro' had it's World Premiere at Historic Theatre Three in February 2020. In addition to her career as an Artist, Denise Lee established "Community Conversation" through her Visions For Change initiative. Since 2016, these monthly gatherings have brought people together for respectful, open, honest dialogue in order to heal racial and community tension. For these efforts, she has received several awards including the 2019 Cathedral of Hope's Hero of Hope Award. You can keep up with her at www.deniseleeonstage.com and www. visionsforchange.org

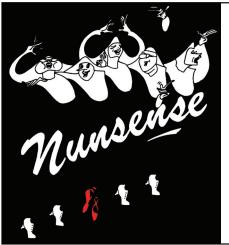
**NORMAN WILLIAMS** (Musical Director) Born and raised Los Angeles starting out as a Baptist Church musician and was inspired by all types of musical cultures like Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, Reggae, Pop, Cuban and Orchestral. Has performed duties as a musical director, musician, writer, arranger-composer, or producer on

numerous events in radio and television productions, recordings, Off Broadway as well as film credits and stage productions with such notables as: Paul Simon, Nancy Wilson, Linda Hopkins, Peabo Bryson, The Whispers, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Richard Tee, Tom Scott, Bumps Blackwell, Dorothy Norwood, Albertina Walker, Willie Neal Johnson & amp; the Gospel Keynotes, Dr. Bobby Jones, The Mississippi Mass Choir, Florida Mass Choir, Mississippi Children's Choir, Angelic Gospel Singers, The Pilgrim Jubilees, The Nightingales, Willie Banks & the Messengers, The Williams Brothers, The Canton Spirituals, Chevy Chase, Mary Kay Place, Bobby Blue Bland, Garland Green, Johnny Taylor, Ted Taylor, Z.Z. Hill, Willie Clayton, G.C Cameron, Ernie Johnson, Randy Jackson, Knocturnal, L.A. Big Daddy's. Currently working as an active musical director, musician, composer, arranger, publisher and producer.

LAWRENCE "PEEBODY" FERRELL, JR. (Drums) is a very talented and progressive drummer/musician with a wide musical vocabulary. He has been influenced by the life of other drummers such as Dennis Chambers, Dave Weckl, JoJo Mayer, Myron Williams and Billy Cobham. Peebody has a unique and distinguished style that adds a positive vibe to all genres of music. He has worked with such artist such as Grammy Award Winning Kirk Franklin, Tamela Mann, Trinity 5:7, Men of Standard, and Grammy Award Nominee Breggett Rideau. He has shared the stage with Stevie Wonder, Patti Labelle, Lionel Harris, Twila Paris, Amy Grant, and many many more. Originally from Tacoma, Washington, Peebody has been around music all his life. He grew up in Fort Worth, TX. Peebody started to play drums at the age of two and was initially taught the fundamentals of music, drums, reading, and theory by Charles Scott Sr. He played stage band for Dunbar High School. Currently Peebody stays busy playing for multiple artist and ministries, doing session work, and clinics. Peebody teaches private lessons to numerous students. He can be seen drumming at Mount Tabor Christian Center and with numerous local artist such as Buster Brown Band, Freddie Jones, Rob Holbert, Shon Martin and the Go Go band, and Breggett Rideau. Peebody can be heard on such albums such as: God's Property, Kirk Franklin Rebirth, Men of Standard, Ted and Sherry, Myron Butler and Levi, Joseph Vincelli, Breggett Rideau, Al Olive, and many more. Lawrence "Peebody" Ferrell Jr. brings a balance of musicianship, organizational development, and integrity that is extraordinary and rare. He is an asset to every organization he has been a part of and is always looking for more opportunities to network and contribute to people's development and success. Peebody's immense musical ability, interpersonal/networking skills, professionalism, and ability to be a resource constantly keeps him busy working and in the public eye.

**BRADY MOSHER** (*Guitar*) – was born in Texas City, Texas and grew up in Tyler in the piney woods of East Texas. From the time he was in the second grade and all through the '60s his father owned a legendary East Texas nightclub called the Reo Palm Isle, where Brady got the chance to meet and hear the music of many of the great artists of Country music and R&B of that era...Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bob Wills, and James Brown among them. Music has been his abiding passion ever since. Brady is a versatile musician in the studio or on the stage and has performed in concert halls, theaters, clubs, alleys, and street corners with artists too numerous to mention. Brady is also a music producer, songwriter and composer of instrumental music, and has recorded thousands of sessions, ranging from blues, country, and gospel to jazz, jingles, radio and television ID's, both national and international. He was a cast member in Dallas Theater Center's production of The Collected Works Of Billy The Kid, by Michael Ondaatje, author of The English Patient. More info at: mojine.com

**CLINTON TRENCH** (Bass) – has been playing bass with Lyric Theatre as far back as 2010 with the hit show December Divas, and in recent years he's been seen (or not seen) in Rock of Ages, When We're Gone and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. He graduated from Oklahoma City University with a Bachelors of Music in Instrumental Performance.



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# Artistic Staff

ASHLEY WELLS (Associate Artistic Director) celebrates 19 years with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. AT LYRIC: Disney's Newsies (Director), Hello, Dolly! (Director), Junie B. Jones (Director), Rock of Ages (Director), The Wizard of Oz (Director), The Fantasticks (Director/Choreographer), Bernice Bobs Her Hair (Choreographer), Billy Elliot (Director), (Director), Monty Pageant Python's Spamalot (Director), Les Misérables (Choreographer), Triangle: A New Musical (Associate Director), The Odd Couple (Director), Big River (Choreographer), Tarzan (Choreographer), Some Enchanted Evening (Director), Sweet Charity (Director) with Tony Award-winner Billy Porter, Spring Awakening (Choreographer), Lyric's A Christmas Carol (Choreographer), Oliver! (Choreographer), The Rocky Horror Show (Choreographer), Urinetown: The Musical (Co-choreographer), Jesus Christ Superstar (Choreographer), Oklahoma! (Co-Choreographer), Hello, Dolly! (Cochoreographer), Cabaret (Choreographer/ Ensemble), Chicago (Choreographer/Merry Murderess). BROADWAY AND NATIONAL TOUR: Hello, Dolly! with Carol Channing. REGIONAL: Phantom of the Opera, North Shore Music Theatre; Evita, Brigadoon, The Music Man, Music Theatre of Wichita; La Cage Aux Folles, Casa Mañana.

**MONIQUE MIDGETTE** (Director) – AT LYRIC: Having Our Say. REGIONAL: New Beginnings: A Musical Revue, University of Maryland; Welcome to Matteson, Orlando Shakes); Two Minutes After Dawn, Mad Cow Theatre; Dessa Rose, Olney Theatre; Seussical the Musical, Adventure Theatre; Beehive: The 60's Musical, Next Stop Theatre; Sweet Charity, Montgomery College; Ain't Misbehavin, Toby's Dinner Theatre; Big River, Asst. Dir. Adventure Theatre. PERFORMER: BROADWAY: The Civil War, Marie Christine, Seussical the Musical, The Lion King, House of Flowers. REGIONAL/TOURS: The Lion King; The Women of Brewster Place, Arena Stage; Children of Eden, Ford's Theatre; Little Shop

of Horrors, Nat'l Tour; Tommy, Nat'l Tour; Dreamgirls, Nat'l Tour; Ain't Misbehavin, North Shore Music Theatre; Once on this Island, Bay Street Theatre; The Wiz, Ford's Theatre. Instagram@moniquecreates Visit: moniquemidgette.com

FABIAN J. GARCIA (Resident Lighting Designer) - 3 years with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. AT LYRIC: Lyric Kids' Clubhouse, Moonlight Cabaret. Lvric's Lvric's Christmas Carol, Having Our Say, The Cat in the Hat, The Rocky Horror Show, Frost/Nixon, Curious George: The Golden Meatball. THELMA GAYLORD ACADEMY: Mary Poppins, Marvel One Acts, Honk Jr., Urinetown: The Musical, The Music Man, The Realm, Rokademy Experiment, Seussical Jr., The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. LOCAL: Megan Hilty Live!, E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert, The Sound of Simon and Garfunkel, The Hot Sardines, Revolution: The Beatles Symphonic Experience, Melinda Doolittle, The Magic of John Williams, A Classic Christmas, Ragtime & All That Jazz,, OKC Philharmonic; She Loves Me, Oklahoma State University.

**KIMBERLY POWERS** (Set Designer) – is delighted to return to Lyric Theatre for Denise Lee: Pressure Makes Diamonds, after designing Disney's Newsies, Titanic: The Musical, Hello, Dolly!, Mamma Mia, West Side Story, Lyric's A Christmas Carol, Fiddler on the Roof, An Inspector Calls, and Billy Elliot. Regionally, she has designed scenery for TheatreSquared (AR), Virginia Repertory (VA), Charleston Stage (SC). Theatre Stages Rep (TX), Southern Rep (LA), Casa Mañana (TX), Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma (OK), and Northern Stage (VT). She was the Resident Set Designer for Ocean State Theatre Company's inaugural season and for Ohio Light Opera, as well as the first Design Assistant at The Denver Center Theatre Company. Kimberly has also been a freelance artist since 2000, and has also worked professionally as a muralist, props master, event designer and coordinator,

graphic designer, and exhibit designer. Her work is available to view at kvpowersdesign. com and on Instagram @kvpowersdesign.

**JEFFREY MEEK** (*Resident Costume Designer*) 22nd season and over 100 productions with Lvric Theatre of Oklahoma. REGIONAL: Ohio Light Opera: Over 50 productions, including Lady Kate - World Premier, Regrets Only -World Premier. The Arcadians - U.S. Premier. The Grande Duke - U.S. Premier; Tulsa Opera: 2003/2004 Seasons; Casa Mañana Playhouse: Annie, Disney's High School Musical, A Christmas Carol - The Musical; Stage One: I Do, I Do, Are We There Yet? -World Premier, Swing; Eastman School of Music: 3 Seasons; Triad Theatre: Kids in America; Colossal Studios: Family Pirate Adventure; Adventure Theatre; James and the Giant Peach - Helen Hayes Nomination. LOCAL: OKC Philharmonic: 13 years of A Very Merry Pops; Reduxion Theatre: 7 Seasons. Hair, Cabaret, Sweeney Todd, Romeo and Juliette; Carpenter Square Theatre: Importance of Being Earnest, Maritius; Oklahoma Children's Theatre: To Kill a

Mockingbird; Jewel Box Theatre: Bus Stop, Leading Ladies, 37 Postcards, Nunsense II -The Second Coming, Suite Surrender, South Pacific. FILM: Fingerprints, Pearl, Agenda.

GABRIELLA TREVINO-BANDY (Stage Manager) is a junior Design and Production student at OCU. Her emphasis is in Stage and Production Management, but she hopes to be an Event Manager. She's worked with Lyric twice before; once on *Frost/Nixon* and once on *Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret*. Other credits include: Summer Stock, Austin, OCU's Holiday Gala, *Dog Sees God, Cendrillon,* and *Side Show.* She's had a wonderful time being a part of this team and is excited for you to see the show.

**COREY RAY** (*Resident Sound Designer/Audio Engineer*) has been with Lyric Theatre for 1 year. AT LYRIC: *Lyric Kids' Clubhouse Cabaret, Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret,* Lyrics A Christmas Carol. Corey graduated from ACM@UCO in 2014 with a BAT in Music Production and has worked as an audio engineer in the live concert industry for 13 years.



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# Lyric Leadership

**MICHAEL BARON** (Producing Artistic Director) At Lyric, he directed Frost/ Nixon, Titanic, Singin' in the Rain, Bright Star, When We're Gone (world premiere), Disney's Freaky Friday, Fun Home, Disney's When You Wish, James and the Giant Peach, I Am My Own Wife, Assassins, Fiddler on the Roof, Dreamgirls, Mann... And Wife (world premiere), Bernice Bobs Her Hair (world premiere), Big Fish with David Elder and Tony-nominee Emily Skinner, Oklahoma!, An Inspector Calls, A Little Night Music with Tony-nominee Dee Hoty, Les Misérables, Triangle, Big River, Tarzan, The Glass Menagerie, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Call Me Madam with Tonywinner Beth Leavel, Spring Awakening, Ragtime, Oliver!, Boeing Boeing, Always... Patsy Cline, December Divas, The Rocky Horror Show and the annual production of Lyric's A Christmas Carol (also adapted). He has directed over 95 productions at theaters across the country including the current production of A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Other regional directing highlights include - ZACH Theatre: Peter and the Starcatcher, Spring Awakening; Signature Theatre: The Little Dog Laughed, Songs for a New World starring Tony-winner Alice Ripley, Tony-nominee Brian D'Arcy James, Emmy-nominee Titus Burgess, and music direction by Jason Robert Brown; Adventure Theatre: James and the Giant Peach, the world premiere musical Big Nate; Goodspeed Musicals: Meet John Doe; Trinity Repertory Company: The School for Scandal. La Mama: The Whore of Sheridan Square (wrote and directed, published in anthology Plays and Playwrights 2006). NEA: 2010-2018 Poetry Out Loud National Competition Finals with hosts, John Leguizamo, Kerry Washington and Anna Deavere Smith. Teaching: American University, Brown University, Holy Cross College and Rhode

Island College. Michael has been a theatre grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. Training: B.A. in Theatre Arts, Wake Forest University; MFA in Directing, Trinity Repertory Conservatory. Michael served as the Associate Director of Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginiawinner of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award. Michael received the 2012 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Direction of a Resident Musical in Washington, D.C. for Adventure Theatre's production of A Year with Frog and Toad, the 2016 Oklahoma Governor's Arts Award, and a special award from Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee on Disabilities Concerns. He is a board member for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

JIM REYNOLDS (Managing Director) joined Lyric Theatre as Managing Director in 2017. He has an extensive background in arts management, marketing, public relations, project management, strategic planning and customer service. He comes to Lyric from Austin, Texas, where he was ZACH Theatre's marketing and public relations director for 25 years. It was a time of unprecedented growth for ZACH, which is now firmly positioned as one of Texas's leading professional theatres. During his tenure, Jim was an integral part of ZACH's success, responsible for all aspects of marketing, branding, press relations and ticket sales. Jim's tenure there helped the theatre grow from an annual operating budget of \$550,000 to \$8,000,000. He created and executed ZACH's annual subscription and single ticket campaigns, which remain the highest grossing in the organization's history. Prior to that, he was the sales director at Dallas Theater Center, Dallas, Texas, and production business manager at the Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

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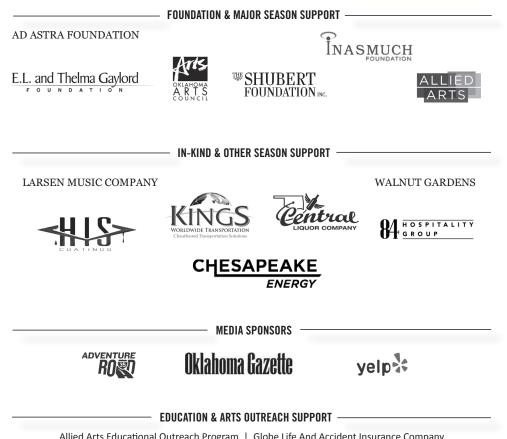
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