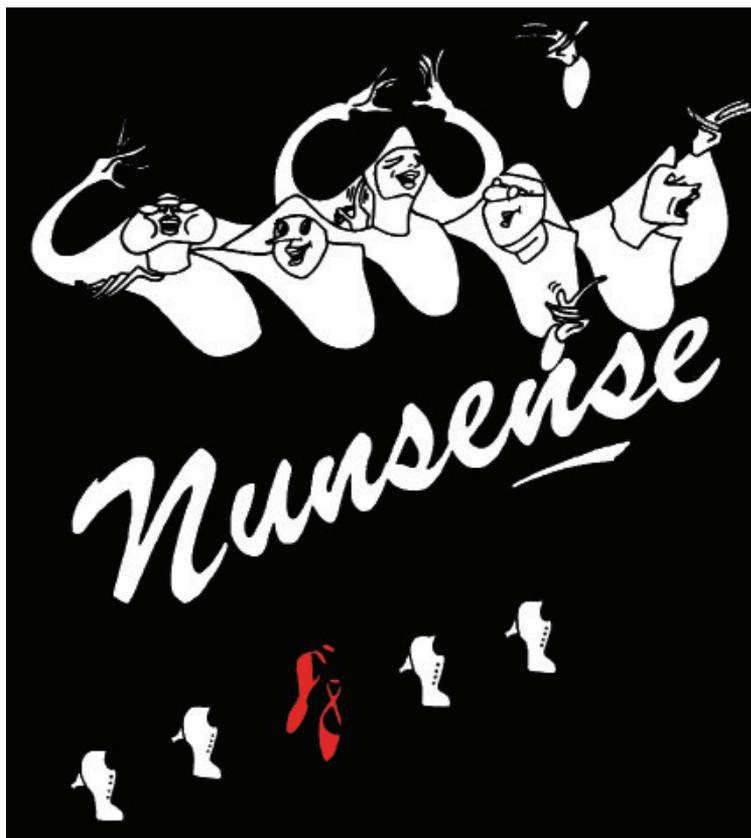
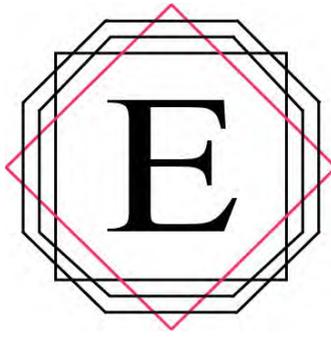


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APRIL 21 - MAY 9, 2021



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# Producing Artistic Director's Welcome

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Dear Friends,

Welcome back to live, professional theatre in Oklahoma and Lyric Theatre's 58th season and to our second show, *Nunsense!* 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 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 newfound knowledge to creating an entire theatrical season in the beautiful outdoors all around our great city! In fact, Lyric is leading the outdoor performance movement this year along with theatres all over America – those who, just like Lyric, 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!

For this performance, we have all gathered to join the Sisters of Hoboken, New Jersey, who share their unique and delightful sense of hope and determination with us through the power of prayer... and musical theatre! *Nunsense* is one of those rare shows that just brings a smile to your face due to the sheer sincerity of the material and love for the characters. In fact, *Nunsense* has become a world-wide sensation. It ran Off-Broadway in NYC for 3,672 performances, was developed into a TV series with Rue McClanahan, and spawned 6 sequels and 3 spin-offs – such as *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming*, *Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nunsense Jamboree*, *Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical*, *Meshuggah-Nuns!* and *Nunsensations: The Nunsense Vegas Revue!* It seems audiences can't get enough of these wonderful characters, and Lyric is proud to showcase them in the show that started it all. I want to give a special thank you to my creative partner in theatrical crime, and director of *Nunsense* Ashley Wells. Her leadership, inspiring spirit, and love of Lyric shines through her winning cast and creative team. She is a big reason Lyric has weathered this rough time.

Remember tickets are now on sale for all of our 2021 shows. You can buy them individually or subscribe and enjoy our 2021 productions at a substantial savings. Each and every unique production is a must see! From this June's spectacular production of *Grease* at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School's FOOTBALL STADIUM to 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, ultimately 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 the city during this challenging year. We are Oklahoma Strong, both 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. And now, enjoy the fresh air and the heavenly sisters of *Nunsense!*

Cheers,  
Michael

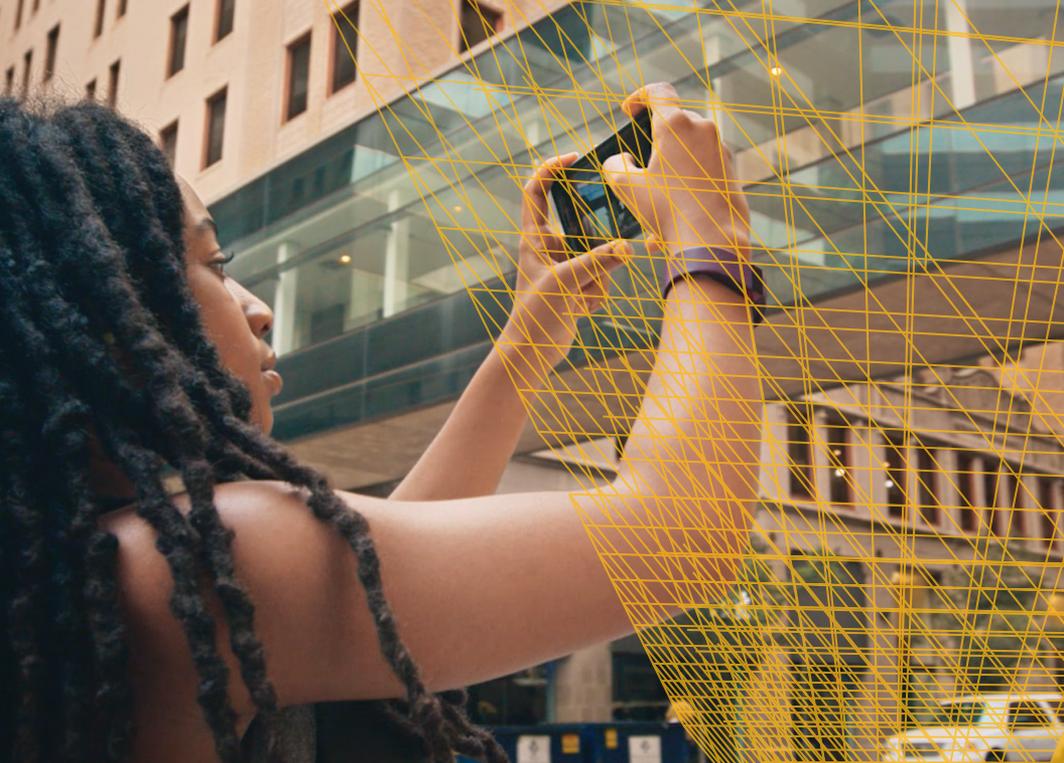
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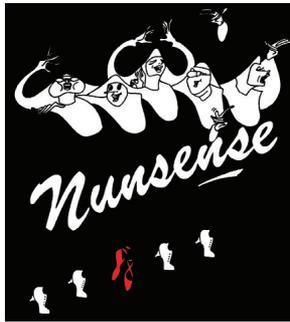


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**KIMBERLY POWERS** ^

COSTUME/PROPS DESIGNER  
**JEFFREY MEEK**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**FABIAN J. GARCIA**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
**ADAM BRAND**

SOUND DESIGNER  
**COREY RAY**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
**BRIAN T. HAMILTON**

CHOREOGRAPHY  
**MATTHEW SIPRESS**

PRODUCTION  
STAGE MANAGER  
**SYDNEY BRYAN**

DIRECTED BY  
**ASHLEY WELLS** +

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# Cast

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**BRENDA WILLIAMS**



**CHEYANNE MARIE**



**BROOKE MELTON**



**JENNY RADER**



**ASHLEY J. MANDANAS**



**JESSICA VANEK**



**VIVIANA A. GOODWIN**

Brenda Williams ..... Sister Mary Regina (Mother Superior)  
 Cheyanne Marie ..... Sister Mary Hubert  
 Brooke Melton..... Sister Robert Anne  
 Jenny Rader ..... Sister Mary Amnesia  
 Ashley J. Mandanas ..... Sister Mary Leo  
 Jessica Vanek ..... Understudy: Sister Robert Anne, Mary Leo, Mother Superior  
 Viviana A. Goodwin ..... Understudy: Mary Hubert, Mary Amnesia

# Production Staff

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Ashley Wells ..... Director  
 Matthew Sipress ..... Choreographer  
 Sydney Bryan ..... Stage Manager  
 Kristina Lenkowsky, Abbey Helfin ..... Assistant Stage Managers  
 Fabian J. Garcia ..... Lighting Designer  
 Kimberly Powers ..... Scenic Designer  
 Jeffrey Meek ..... Costume & Props Designer  
 Corey Ray ..... Sound Designer  
 Adam Brand ..... Technical Director  
 Kolt Schnake ..... Carpenter  
 Josie Walley, Devin Mulberry ..... Spot Operators  
 Alix Phelan ..... Wardrobe Supervisor  
 Christina Draper ..... Stitcher

# Who's Who In The Cast

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**BRENDA WILLIAMS** (*Sister Mary Regina*) – AT LYRIC: *Lyric's A Christmas Carol, Fiddler on the Roof, Billy Elliot, Mary Poppins, Hairspray, Always, Patsy Cline*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Cyrano de Bergerac, Pinocchio, Heidi*, The Alley Theatre; FILM: *Public Enemies*, HBO Pictures; ADDITIONAL THEATRE: *Driving Miss Daisy, An Act of God, Disaster, The Musical, A Trip to Bountiful, The Full Monty, Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, Pollard Theatre; *Grapes of Wrath, Romeo & Juliet*, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Reduxion Theatre; *Sordid Lives, Enchanted April*, Carpenter Square Theatre.

**CHEYANNE MARIE** (*Sister Mary Hubert*) – AT LYRIC: *Titanic*. REGIONAL: *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Kismet Studio of Performing Arts; *Christmas Canteen*, Aurora Theatre. OTHER THEATRE: *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Merrily We Roll Along, 9 to 5*, North Georgia Theatre; *Chicago, Sweet Charity*, Piedmont College; *Sideshow*, Oklahoma City University. OTHER CREDITS: M.M. Musical Theatre from Oklahoma City University, B.A. Musical Theatre from Piedmont College, Top 24 in the 2020 National Music Theatre Competition. [www.cheyannemarie.com](http://www.cheyannemarie.com)

**BROOKE MELTON** (*Sister Robert Anne*) – AT LYRIC: *The Rocky Horror Show*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, Divergence Theatre Company; *Heathers: The Musical, Anything Goes*, The Royal Theatre. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: BM in Musical Theatre from Oklahoma City University and ongoing MM in Vocal Performance: Musical Theatre from NYU Steinhardt.

**JENNY RADER** (*Sister Mary Amnesia*) is making her Lyric Theatre debut. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Shrek the Musical, The Last Five*

*Years*, Poteet Theatre; OTHER THEATRE: *At the Movies, The City Cabaret OKC; Susannah, The Telephone, A Gilbert and Sullivan Soiree, The Bartered Bride, Simply Mozart*, University of Central Oklahoma Opera; *Into the Woods*, University of Central Oklahoma Music Theatre; *Happy Holidays*, University of Central Oklahoma Jazz Lab.

**ASHLEY J. MANDANAS** (*Sister Mary Leo*) – AT LYRIC: *Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret, The King and I, Ragtime, Lyric's A Christmas Carol*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Avenue Q*, CityRep OKC; FILM: *Shifter, Golden Arm, The Girl Who Believes Miracles, Scutly, Chicken House* (pre-production). TELEVISION: *The Price of Fame: Angelina Jolie*. OTHER THEATRE: *Those Who Lie Beyond, Presence, 19th Century Hound. City of Angels, Nice Work of You Can Get It*, OU Theatre; *Songs for a New World*, National Arts Festival South Africa. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Musical Theatre, B.F.A. from OU.

**JESSICA VANEK** (*u/s for Sister Robert Anne, Sister Mary Leo & Mother Superior*) is making her Lyric Theatre debut. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Some Enchanted Evening*, Upstage Theatre; *The Marvelous Wonderettes, Crimes of the Heart*, St. Croix Festival Theatre. EDUCATIONAL THEATRE: *Songs For A New World, A Little Night Music, The Zombies of Penzance*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.M. in Music Theater from Oklahoma City University.

**VIVIANA A. GOODWIN** (*u/s for Sister Mary Hubert & Sister Mary Amnesia*) is making her Lyric Theatre debut. OTHER THEATRE: *Così fan tutte, A Little Night Music, Zombies of Penzance, Gianni Schicchi*, Oklahoma City University. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Music Theatre/Vocal Performance B.M. from Oklahoma City University.



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# Artistic Staff

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**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), *Pageant* (Director), Monty 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!* (Co-choreographer), *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.

**MATTHEW SIPRESS** (Choreographer) – AT LYRIC: Director/Choreographer of *Curious George: The Golden Meatball*, Choreographer of *Hello, Dolly!*, *Fun Home*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mary Poppins*, *Some Enchanted Evening*. NEW YORK: Assistant Choreographer of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Carol Channing (Broadway/30th Anniversary Nat'l Tour) and Asst. Director/Asst. Choreographer of *The Cocoanuts* (Off-Broadway). OKLAHOMA: Director/Choreographer of *Cabaret* (OK Gazette Best Musical of 2013) and *Sweeney Todd*, Reduxion Theatre Co.; *The Producers* (Red Dirt Report Best Direction of a Musical 2017) and *Disaster*, Pollard Theatre; *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*,

*Miss Bennet: A Christmas at Pemberly*, Oklahoma City University Theatre; *A Little Night Music*, *Così Fan Tutte*, OCU Wanda Bass School of Music; *Merrily We Roll Along*, UCO Musical Theatre; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Jewel Box Theatre; *Hello, Dolly!*, Sooner Theatre.

**BRIAN T. HAMILTON** (Music Director) – 21 years with Lyric Theatre. LYRIC: *Singin' in the Rain*, *Bright Star*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, Lyric's *A Christmas Carol*, *The Fantasticks*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *The Who's Tommy*. REGIONAL: *Nunsense A-Men!*, StrawHat Theatre. LOCAL: *The Normal Heart*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre.

**FABIAN J. GARCIA** (Resident Lighting Designer) – Three years with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. AT LYRIC: *Denise Lee: Pressure Makes Diamonds*, *Lyric Kids' Clubhouse*, *Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret*, *Lyric's A 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 *Nunsense* after designing *Denise Lee: Pressure Makes Diamonds*, 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 Theatre (VA), Charleston Stage (SC), 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](http://kvpowersdesign.com) and on Instagram @kvpowersdesign.

**JEFFREY MEEK** (*Resident Costume Designer*) 22nd season and over 100 productions with Lyric 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*.

**SYDNEY BRYAN** (*Production Stage Manager*) – *Nunsense* is her first show with Lyric Theatre. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Nutcracker Short and Sweet* (SM), Music

Theatre Wichita 2018-2019 Seasons (Carpenter), *Nutcracker Tours* 2018-2019 (ASM), She is expected to graduate from Oklahoma City University in May with a BFA in Production Stage Management and Technical Direction.

**COREY RAY** (*Resident Sound Designer/Audio Engineer*) has been with Lyric Theatre for 1 year. AT LYRIC: *Denise Lee: Pressure Makes Diamonds*, *Lyric Kids' Clubhouse Cabaret*, *Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret*, *Lyric's 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.

**DAN GOGGIN** (*Author*) is a writer and director who began his professional career singing in the Broadway production of *Luther*. While appearing in a comic folk-duo called "The Saxons," he began writing. This led to scores for the off-Broadway musical *Hark!* (in which he also appeared), the Broadway production of *Legend*, and two revues. Mr. Goggin received the 1986 Outer Critics' Circle Awards given to *Nunsense* for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Music. *Nunsense* and *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming* have been recorded for the A&E Television Network. *Nunsense 3: The Jamboree* toured the U.S. and has been recorded for television at the Grand Ole Opry. *Nunsense A-Men!* opened at the 47th Street Theatre in New York in June 1998. *Nun crackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical* premiered in October 1998, followed by a national tour. *The Nun crackers* television special played on the PBS network and received an Emmy nomination for Best Musical Score. Mr. Goggin's *Meshuggah-Nuns: The Ecumenical Nunsense* premiered in September 2002. In 2004, Mr. Goggin's "serious piece," *The Traditional Latin Mass*, was recorded by cast members and friends. 2005 marked the premiere of *Nunsensations: The Nunsense Vegas Revue Sister Robert Anne's Cabaret Class* (a one-nun musical) and *Nunset Boulevard: The Nunsense Hollywood Bowl Show* premiered in 2012.

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# Lyric Leadership

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**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 Tony-winner 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, Virginia-winner 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.

# Lyric Theatre Board of Directors

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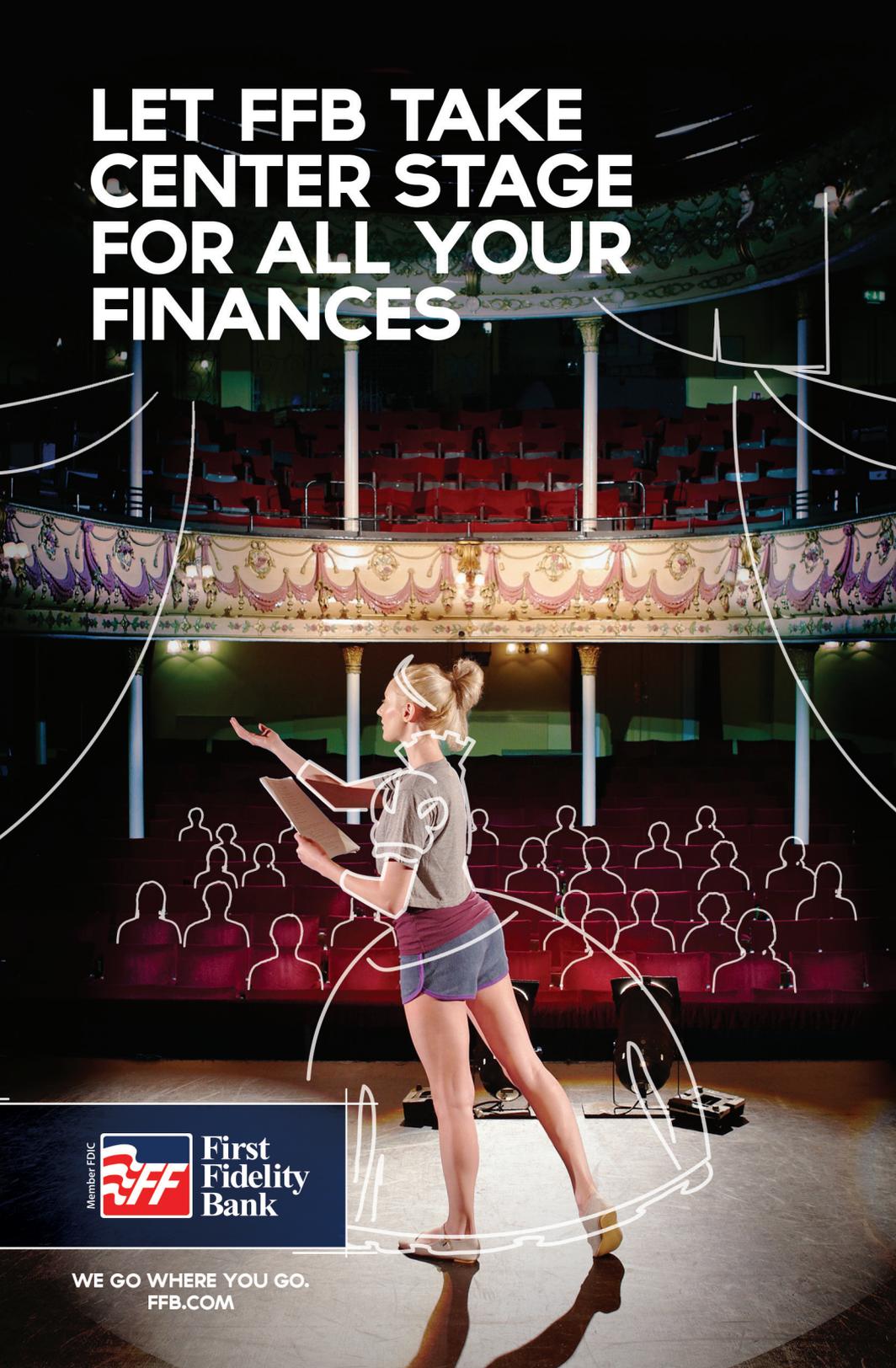
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