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2023



- WORLD PREMIERE PLAY -

CONCERTO

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 1

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Director's Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the world-premiere production of CONCERTO by Alan Olejniczak! In 2014, Lyric Theatre established our NewWorks Initiative, under which we have produced at least one world premiere production every season. Over the last eight years, we have had the opportunity to develop and produce a broad spectrum of new plays and musicals that have shone a light on a variety of stories and human experiences.

I first met playwright and opera librettist Olejniczak in 2019 at the William Inge Theatre Festival where he was presenting a reading of his play VAL-KILL about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. I was so moved by his work and what struck me the most about his artistic point of view is that he tells the stories of significant historical figures through a modern lens, often revealing something about that person's life or character that is not widely known today.

When Olejniczak shared the script for CONCERTO with me, I knew right away that it would be an incredible opportunity and a good match for Lyric Theatre. While Lyric's seasons traditionally revolve around musical theatre, CONCERTO, as a play with music, allows us to bridge the gap between traditional plays and musicals, providing audiences with a live-performance experience that they might not otherwise have.



Lyric hosted a workshop of CONCERTO in September 2021 that culminated in a one-night public reading of the play at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. The success of that collaboration and positive audience feedback encouraged us to produce the full production you are seeing now.

CONCERTO reveals the story behind the creation of Tchaikovsky's infamous 1878 violin concerto. The plot focuses on the artist's relationship with his patron and investigates questions about how art was funded and supported in the past, while leaving room for conversation about how art continues to be funded today. The play also shares elements of Tchaikovsky's personal life that, while common knowledge to historians and music scholars, are not widely known by the general public, including his relationship with his protegee, Iosif Iosifovich Kotek.

As the leader of an organization whose mission drives us to form collaborations with artists and arts organizations across Oklahoma City, I am particularly energized by the opportunity CONCERTO presents to work with my colleague Alexander Mickelthwate, Maestro of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. He has played a pivotal role in CONCERTO's development, working with me, Alan, and the onstage musicians to create a Tchaikovsky-based musical score for the play. In addition, on September 9th, he opened the OKCPHil's season with a night of Tchaikovsky's music, including the violin concerto played by the stunning Ukrainian violinist, Anastasia Petryshak.

Thank you for coming and supporting this thoughtful conversation that considers all of our relationships to art and the creation of it. Next up is Lyric's brand-new spectacular production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL! Get your tickets now so you can be one of the first to experience this magical Oklahoma holiday tradition! And don't forget to subscribe to our 2024 Season of more exciting new works, wonderful classic musicals, and more!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Baron".

Michael Baron

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MICHAEL BARON, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JIM REYNOLDS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

ASHLEY WELLS, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

PRESENT



WRITTEN by **ALAN OLEJNICZAK**

MUSIC by **PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY**

SET DESIGNER
ULDARICO SARMIENTO

COSTUME DESIGNER
JEFFREY MEEK

LIGHTING DESIGNER
FABIAN J. GARCIA

MUSIC SUPERVISOR
**MAESTRO ALEXANDER
MICKELTHWATE**

SOUND DESIGNER
COREY RAY

PROPERTIES DESIGNER
COURTNEY STRONG

HAIR DESIGNER
JOANNE MIDDLETON-WEAVER

DRAMATURG
EMMETT REESE

STAGE MANAGER
DANNY DE JONG

DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL BARON⁺

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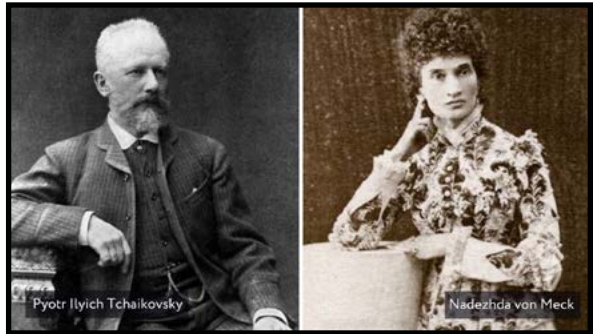
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Notes From Our Dramaturg

Before Tchaikovsky was the famous composer he's known as now, he was Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, the second son of Ilya and Aleksandra Tchaikovsky and one of seven children. He had dabbled in music for lots of his childhood, including a 'first composition' dedicated to his mother, but it wouldn't be until adulthood when he would truly study music. Even then, before he attended the Saint Petersburg Conservatory and joined the Russian musical society as a whole, he had been a government official, a clerk in the Ministry of Justice, for three years. However, music finally won him over in 1863 and he studied and graduated from the Conservatory in 1866, in one of its first classes.



But Tchaikovsky still couldn't fully dedicate himself to composing, joining the staff almost immediately as a professor of musical composition at the Moscow Conservatory after his graduation. It wouldn't be until he met Nadezhda von Meck, the woman who would become his friend and patroness, that Tchaikovsky could focus fully on his compositions. In 1876, von Meck, the recent widow of a railway tycoon, was a financially powerful and savvy business woman herself. She used that financial power and business acumen to support the arts she'd been a long-time lover of. Her father was an amateur violinist and she played piano while also having extensive knowledge of classical music. It was only after her husband's death

that she began feeding into that love with full force. This included her patronage of both Debussy and Tchaikovsky. While she never met Tchaikovsky – von Meck was a social recluse after her husband's death – their friendship did exist through the over one thousand letters written between them over a 13-year period.



This connection between von Meck and Tchaikovsky was not formed by either alone. It was thanks to Iosif Kotek, a young violinist who had worked for von Meck and been a student at the Moscow Conservatory Tchaikovsky taught at.


The two of them had a complicated relationship, one that waxed and waned in terms of unrequited passion, but was still one of care and love. Kotek was a talented musician whose presence was a muse, arranger of music, and companion for Tchaikovsky.

These two, during a time of transition for Tchaikovsky, were integral parts to how the art he's so known for now were created and without them, it's hard to know how Tchaikovsky's career may have gone. Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is still loved and praised today and Olejniczak's play Concerto gives us modern dramatic insight into how this concerto was created, who inspired it, and the woman who supported its creation.



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CONCERTO Company



MATTHEW ALVIN BROWN* (Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky) – AT LYRIC: *OKLAHOMA! Interactive, The Rocky Horror Show, Matilda, Lyric Kids' Clubhouse Interactive, Frost/Nixon, Lyric's A Christmas Carol, When We're Gone, Hello, Dolly!, I Am My Own Wife, Assassins, Fiddler on the Roof, An Inspector Calls, Monty Python's Spamalot, Disney's The Little Mermaid, The Odd Couple, Ragtime, Boeing Boeing, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Little Shop of Horrors, The Producers*. NEW YORK: *Rainbow Around the Sun*, New York Musical Theatre Festival. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Rocky Horror Picture Show, AntiGravity Orlando*. LOCAL: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch, American Idiot, Company, Passing Strange*, Pollard Theatre; *The Normal Heart, The 39 Steps, Next to Normal, Peter and the Star Catcher*, CityRep; *Jesus*

Christ Superstar, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, OKC Theatre Company; *Venus in Fur, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Pride and Prejudice*, Oklahoma Shakespeare. Brown serves as instructor/director for Lyric's Thelma Gaylord Academy Rokademy Experiment.



SHERIDAN McMICHAEL (Iosif Kotek) – AT LYRIC: *The Rocky Horror Show, OKLAHOMA! Interactive, Matilda, Head Over Heels, Frost/Nixon, The Drowsy Chaperone, The Fantasticks, Pageant, Big River, Spring Awakening, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. FILM: *Climate of the Hunter, T-Rex*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Christmas Show with Kelli O'Hara*, OKC Phil; *Avenue Q, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, OKC Rep; *Te Ata, Chickasaw Nation; Big River*, Pollard Theatre. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.M. from Oklahoma City University.



KRIS SCHINSKE* (Nadezhda von Meck) – AT LYRIC: *Concerto* preview reading. REGIONAL THEATRE: *'Night Mother, August: Osage County, November, Mr. Burns, a Post Electric Play, Oklahoma City Repertory Theater; Ring 'Round the Moon, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park; It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Almost Maine*, Pollard Theatre Company; *Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Richard III, The Women, The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*, Reduxion Theatre Company; *I Want to Go Home, Oklahoma Samovar*, Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma. *Kimberly Akimbo, The Clean House, Carpenter Square Theatre; A Portion for Foxes*, Theatre Crude Festival; *8*, a staged reading to benefit AFER; *Broken Heart Land*, Native American Play Festival; *Birth*, benefit performance for BOLD.

FILM: *Finding Carlos, Interior Lives*. TELEVISION: *Joy in Our Town, Another Family Show*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Theatre Performance studies, University of Central Oklahoma; B.S. Southern Nazarene University; children's book author – *The Stinky Chair* and the upcoming, *Ebee and Krista*.



JESSE "LUSHANYA" BATTICE (Understudy/Swing) is making his Lyric Theatre debut. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Annie Get Your Gun, The Jackson Hole Playhouse; The Polar Express Train Ride OKC*, Rail Events Productions. OTHER THEATRE: *Bonnie & Clyde, The World Goes Round, The Wedding Singer*, University of Central Oklahoma; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Poteet Theatre; *Violet, Once on this Island, Pippin*, The Brass Ring Center for the Performing Arts. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Guitarist, Studying B.M. in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Oklahoma.

CONCERTO Company



MAESTRO ALEXANDER MICKELTHWATE (Music Supervisor) – As he prepares for his sixth season leading the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Maestro Alexander Mickelthwate has fully become part of the community.

Born and raised in Frankfurt, Germany, Mickelthwate grew up in a home filled with classical music. He received his degree from the Peabody Institute of Music, and has worked with orchestras in Atlanta, Winnipeg and Los Angeles.

He is Music Director Emeritus of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in Canada, and in 2022, accepted the position of Music Director for the prestigious Bear Valley Music Festival in Bear Valley, California. In early 2023, Mickelthwate traveled to Hanoi where he was Guest Conductor at the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra.

Since he's been in Oklahoma, Mickelthwate has received numerous awards and honors, including being twice-named "The Face of Music" by 405 Magazine. The OKC Friday newspaper named him one of the "Top 50 Most Powerful," and the Ladies Music Club of Oklahoma City lauded him "Musician of the Year."

Mickelthwate lives in Oklahoma City with his wife of 25 years, Abigail, and sons Jack and Jacob. He is Artist in Residence at the University of Central Oklahoma where he enjoys working with the next generation of musicians, and conducting UCO's symphony orchestra.



JOAO PEDRO PENA DUTRA
Pianist



SAMUEL GILLES
Violinist

BELL & RHODES, PC



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SEPTEMBER 26-
OCTOBER 1, 2023



OCTOBER 10-15, 2023



FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 10, 2024



DECEMBER 26-31, 2023

SEASON SPECIAL

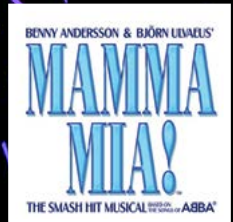


JANUARY 16-21, 2024

SEASON SPECIAL



APRIL 9-14, 2024



MAY 21-26, 2024

CONCERTO Artistic Staff

MICHAEL BARON (Director) – At Lyric, he directed *The Prom*, *Big River*, *Carousel*, *Head Over Heels*, *Master Class*, *Grease*, *Lyric Kids' Clubhouse*, *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 & 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 100 productions at theaters across the country, including co-directing with Sandra Mae Frank an ASL/Spoken English production of *The Music Man* at The Olney Theatre in Washington, D.C., co-directing with Brian Cheslik an ASL/Spoken English production of *Cinderella* at ZACH Theatre/Deaf Austin Theatre, and 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 and Poetry Foundation 2010-2023: Poetry Out Loud National Competition Finals with hosts Joy Sunday, John Leguizamo, Kerry Washington and Anna Deavere Smith. Teaching: American University, Brown University, Holy Cross College, Oklahoma City University, 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; M.F.A. 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, a 2016 special award from Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee on Disabilities Concerns, the 2021 Yad B'Yad, Hand in Hand Award from the Jewish Federation of OKC and the 2022 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical for Olney Theatre's production of *The Music Man*. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City and an emeritus board member for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

JOSIAH BROOKS (Technical Director) – is a proud graduate of Chipola College (FL) with an associates degree and the University of Central Oklahoma with a B.F.A. in Theatre and Performance. Josiah has been employed with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma since the summer of 2015.



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Whether it was on stage or backstage, he has been a part of 30 productions with Lyric since then. Recently he was the Deck Supervisor and Head Flyman for the 2022 & 2023 Summer season at the Civic Center, also appearing in the ensemble of the spectacular *Kinky Boots*. Other positions held at Lyric have been Carpenter, Electrician, Welder, Flyman, Assistant to the Director, Fight Choreographer, Stage Combat teacher for Lyric's Academy. Josiah loves being involved in theatre getting his start in community theatre in his hometown of Dothan, Alabama. He is also very proud of his work as a Technical Director, Director, Acting Coach and Designer for Spark Theater Company, a Young Artists theatre in his hometown.

JOAO PEDRO PENA DUTRA (Pianist) Born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, he began his musical studies at the age 14, under the guidance of Lina Pinheiro at Fundação de Educação Artística (Foundation of Artistic Education). In 2021, he graduated as a Bachelor of Music with major in Piano, in the Universidade do Estado de Minas Gerais (Minas Gerais State University, Brazil), in the class of the professor M. Junia Canton. Today, at age 27, Joao is a second-year graduate student in Piano Performance under the guidance of Dr. Sergio Monteiro, at Oklahoma City University, where he also holds a Student employee position as an accompanist. His performances include solo and chamber music, with repertoire ranging from the baroque to contemporary music, including a worldwide debut of a piece by Thais Montanari in 2017.

FABIAN J. GARCIA (Resident Lighting Designer) – Five years with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. AT LYRIC: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Big River*, *The Rocky Horror Show* 2019 & 2022, *Head*

Over Heels, *Distant Thunder* (World Premiere), *Master Class*, *Grease*, *Nunsense*, *Denise Lee: Pressure Makes Diamonds* (World Premiere), *Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret*, *Lyric's A Christmas Carol* 2020-2022, *Having Our Say*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Curious George: The Golden Meatball*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Theatre Under The Stars*; *Cyrano de Burgeshack*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Newsies Jr.*, *Into The Woods*, *Puffs: Or seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A Certain School Of Magic and Magic*, *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Lion King Jr.*, *Mary Poppins*, *Rockademy Experiment*, *Lyric's Thelma Gaylord Academy*. OTHER THEATRE: *Coming Home for Christmas*, *Music of Billy Joel*, *Ragtime & All That Jazz*, *A Classic Christmas*, *The Magic of John Williams*, *Megan Hilty Live!*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert*, *The Sound of Simon and Garfunkel*, *The Hot Sardines*, *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*; *Ruddigore*, *Cimarron Opera*; *Lizzie: The Rock Musical*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Southern Plains Productions*; *Kinky Boots*, *1776*, *Theatre Tulsa*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Oklahoma University*; *She Loves Me*, *Oklahoma State University*; *Notes on Survival*, *Oklahoma Contemporary Museum*.

JEFFREY MEEK (Resident Costume Designer) – 24th season and over 130 productions with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. REGIONAL: Ohio Light Opera: Over 50 productions, including *Lady Kate* - World Premiere, *Regrets Only* - World Premiere, *The Arcadians* - U.S. Premiere, *The Grande Duke* - U.S. Premiere; Evan Bernardin Productions: *Merry Christmas Charlie Brown*, National Tour; ZACH Theatre: *Cinderella*; 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 Premiere, *Swing*; Eastman School

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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: 15 years of *A Very Merry Pops*; Reduxion Theatre: *7 Seasons, Hair, Cabaret, Sweeney Todd, Romeo & Juliet*; 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*.

JOANNA MIDDLETON-WEAVER (Hair Designer) – Born in England, Joanne came to the United States in the late 1980s. Her career in theatre began in 1991 at what was at the time Washington Opera, now Washington National Opera. She has designed many opera productions at numerous companies throughout the U.S. AT LYRIC: *Ain't Misbehavin', The Prom, The Sound of Music, Kinky Boots, Carousel, Matilda, Titanic, Newsies, Singin' in the Rain, Hello, Dolly!*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Life and Times of Malcolm X, Ainadamar*, Detroit Opera City Opera; *The Notebook*, Chicago Shakespeare.

ALAN OLEJNICZAK (Playwright) is an opera librettist and playwright based in San Francisco. His operas, including *Atlas of Remote Islands* (2023) and *Unbound*, (2021) with music by Nathan Hall, and *Death of Ivan Ilych* (2021) with music by John Young.

Alan has two more premieres this year. His play, *Concerto* with the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, and his oratorio, *Yosef and the Counseling Angel* with music by Cole Thomason-Redus in Denver. He also has an upcoming opera workshop of *Midnight to Midnight* with Dante de Silva and Synchomy in Los Angeles in June 2024.

In September 2024, his opera, *Dreams Americanos* is premiering with I Colori dell'opera in Houston. Alan currently has six other operas in development and has set the text for the song cycle *A Light Rekindled* with Iranian-American composer Amin Sarrafi.

He is also the Playwright in Residence with The Proscenium, a London-based online theatre company. Their first season includes his plays *Next of Kin, Helt Texas*, and his adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* with David Ricardo-Pearce. His upcoming plays include *Workforce* and *Plunder*, written with writing lead Carl Prekopp.

Alan was the Artist in Residence for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and the first playwright ever selected by the National Parks Arts Foundation. Alan's other artist residencies include: Micro Galleries in Pātan, Nepal; Nes Residency in Skagaströnd, Iceland; Nocefresca in Milis, Sardinia; along with the prestigious The Arctic Circle Residency, sailing the icy waters around Svalbard. Residencies for 2024 include Micro Galleries in Chiang Mai, Thailand and The Arctic Circle Residency for an Alumni Expedition. Alan is currently an Opera Committee Member of the Dramatist Guild and an Advisory Board Member of Opera Parallèle.

COREY RAY (Resident Sound Designer) – has worked as an Audio Engineer in the Live/Recorded Music Industry for 15 years and obtained a B.A. in Applied Technology from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2014. Corey joined Lyric in March of 2020 and has since produced audio for *Ain't Misbehavin', The Prom, The Sound of Music, The Play That Goes Wrong, Big River, Lyric's A Christmas Carol, The Rocky Horror Show, Matilda, Carousel, Kinky Boots, Master Class, Grease, Nunsense, Distant Thunder, Lyric's Kids Clubhouse/Cabaret, Head Over Heels*.



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EMMETT REESE – AT LYRIC: *Denise Lee: Pressure Makes Diamonds* (Assistant Stage Manager) OTHER THEATRE: *She Kills Monsters* (Dramaturg), *Machinal* (Dramaturg), Oklahoma City University.

ULDARICO SARMIENTO (Set Designer) is an Associate Professor of Design and Digital Media at The University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama. His scenic design credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest*, Shakespeare Dallas; *Guadalupe in the Guest Room*, Creede Repertory Theatre; *Ain't Misbehavin', Master Class, Singin' in the Rain, Crowns, Rock of Ages, The Fantasticks*, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Reduxion Theatre; *Journey's End*, Kansas City Actors Theatre; *Number the Stars*, Coterie Theatre; *Susannah, Pippin, Blood Wedding, Scapino!, A Christmas Carol, The Trojan Women, Let The Right One In, Ragtime*, University of Oklahoma. His digital media design credits include: *Mary Poppins, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Billy Elliot the Musical*, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma; *Don Pasquale*, University of Oklahoma. Film and TV credits include: Set Designer for Nick Cassavetes' *Yellow*; Set Designer for the film adaptation of *August: Osage County*; Set Design and Graphics for *Gotti*, starring John Travolta; Design Assistant for *The Haunting of Hill House* on Netflix.

MATTHEW SIPRESS (Production/Company Manager) – has a degree in Entertainment Business from Oklahoma City University and is currently the Production/Company Manager at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. AT LYRIC: Director/Choreographer of *Curious George: The Golden Meatball, The Cat in the Hat*; Choreographer of *Hello, Dolly!, Fun Home, The Wizard of Oz, Mary Poppins*. REGIONAL THEATRE: Director/Choreographer of *Cabaret, Sweeney Todd, The Producers,*

Disaster. NEW YORK: Assistant Choreographer of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Carol Channing and Asst. Director/Asst. Choreographer of *The Cocoanuts*. EDUCATIONAL: *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Miss Bennet: A Christmas at Pemberly, A Little Night Music, Così Fan Tutte, Merrily We Roll Along*. As a performer Matthew has toured North America in *Hello, Dolly!* starring Carol Channing (also Broadway), *Evita* (twice) and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* starring Stella Parton. Some of his favorite roles played are George M. Cohan, Diesel, Larry, Big Daddy's Asst., Old Man Strong, and Avram (twice, the second time with ASL interpolation).

COURTNEY STRONG (Properties Designer) – 16 years with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. AT LYRIC: *Ain't Misbehavin', The Prom, The Sound of Music, Kinky Boots, Carousel, Matilda, Head Over Heels, Distant Thunder, Rock of Ages, Disney's When You Wish, Million Dollar Quartet, Billy Elliot, Big Fish, Mary Poppins, Oklahoma!, A Little Night Music, Monty Python's Spamalot, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Les Misérables, Tarzan, Big River, The Glass Menagerie, Call Me Madam, Sweet Charity, Ragtime, Oliver!, Steel Magnolias, The Rocky Horror Show, Urinetown: The Musical*. LOCAL: *The Christmas Show*, Oklahoma City Philharmonic; *The Secret Garden*, Myriad Botanical Gardens.

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Electrician.....	Ethan Wells
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Jim Reynolds	Managing Director
Ashley Wells.....	Executive Producer
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Lauren Hathcoat	Facilities, COVID Safety & Front of House Manager
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NOV. 2-4

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Lyric Leadership

MICHAEL BARON (Producing Artistic Director) *See bio on page 14.*

JIM REYNOLDS (Managing Director) – is now in his sixth year at Lyric Theatre. As a life-long professional in theatre management, he has an extensive background in marketing, public relations, sales, project management, strategic planning, fundraising, and patron loyalty strategies. Prior to Oklahoma City, he was the Director of Marketing and Public Relations at ZACH Theatre – the leading regional theatre in Austin, TX. During his 25-year tenure he was an integral part of growing ZACH's annual budget from \$550,000 to \$8,000,000 and opening two state-of-the-art theatre facilities. Prior to that, he was the Sales Director at Dallas Theater Center, helmed by Adrian Hall and Peter Donnelly – both acclaimed leaders in the first and second generation of the American regional theater movement. Fresh from the University of South Carolina, he served as Patron Manager and Production Business Manager at the Alliance Theatre/Atlanta Children's Theatre, the Southeast's leading regional theatre and Tony Award-Winner. Jim has served as a civic volunteer with several non-profit organizations and was, most recently, the Board President of the Plaza District Business Association.

ASHLEY WELLS (Executive Producer) – celebrates 22 years with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma and recently

was honored as recipient of the Arts in Education Governor's Arts Award. She is on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and Chairs the Membership Committee. AT LYRIC: *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Kinky Boots* (Director), *Matilda* (Director), *Nunsense*, *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). REGIONAL THEATRE: *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Oklahoma City University (Director); *Phantom of the Opera*, North Shore Music Theatre (Ensemble); *Evita* (Ensemble), *Brigadoon* (Jean), *The Music Man*, Music Theatre of Wichita (Zaneeta Shin); *La Cage Aux Folles*, Casa Mañana (Anne). BROADWAY AND NATIONAL TOUR: *Hello, Dolly!* with Carol Channing (Ermengarde).

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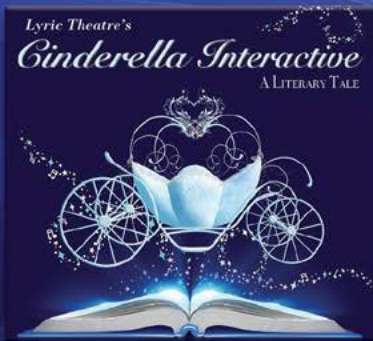


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Michael Crawford & Dr. Drew Dye – David C. Dobson – Marianne Edwards – Ashley Ewers – Keith Ferguson – Hillary
Finch-Martin & Christopher Martin – Eden Green – Marsha Ingerso – Liz Kraft – Rob Lake – Seth Lewis – Erik Salazar &
Christopher Lloyd – Stephanie McCabe – Emily McConnell – Lance McDaniel – Monty Milburn & Dr. Kevin Watson
Kindt S. Myers – Michael Myers – John Otjen – Jake Phelps – Hui Cha Pooos – Catherine Schuepbach
Laurena Sherrill – Bryson Silk – John Spencer – Christi Walsh – Dava Renee White – Amy Young

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October 20, 7pm
October 21, 2pm and 7pm
October 22, 2pm



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