

# HITSBILL

## SHOWSTOPPERS

A Broadway Musical Scrapbook

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS AT



**HITS**  
THEATRE



**MILLER  
OUTDOOR  
THEATRE**

IN HERMANN PARK

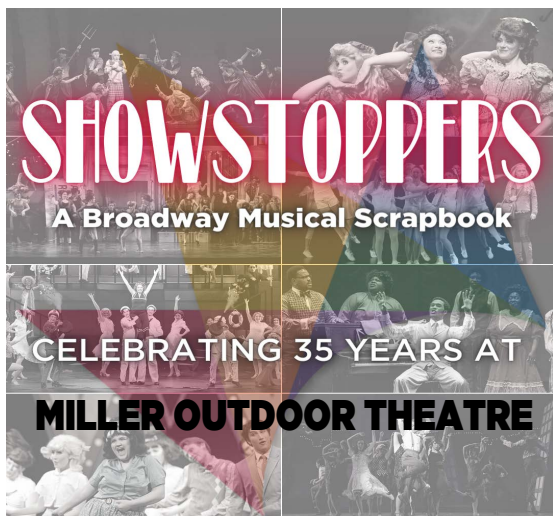
PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

**STAGES**

**MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE  
JULY 9TH & 10TH**



**PROUDLY PRESENTS**



CONCEPT BY  
**ADAM WAGNER**

SET DESIGN  
**JODI BOBROVSKY**

COSTUME DESIGN  
**KRISTIN KNIPP**

LIGHTING DESIGN  
**BRYAN EALEY**

SOUND DESIGN  
**JOHN PEEPLES**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
**ALRIC DAVIS**

STAGE MANAGER  
**ASHLEY GINN**

ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY  
**DANA LEWIS & ALRIC DAVIS**

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PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

**STAGES**



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MUSIC SUPERVISOR & ARRANGER  
**MICHAEL MERTZ**

DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
**ADAM WAGNER**

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**THIS PRODUCTION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE  
GENEROSITY OF OUR SUPPORTERS.**

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Special thanks to our "Director's Sponsor"



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Cecilia Duarte, Charles Harrison, Dr. Kyle Kindred, Kristin Knipp,  
Keith LaLonde, Emily Beth Lange, Chelsea Lerner, Dana Lewis,  
Michael Mertz, Christian Scott, Sarah Sneesby

**Founding Director | Carolyn Franklin**

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**Kendall West** - Student Choreographers

"Dance Suite"

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**Ty James** - Load-In Crew

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San Jacinto College Students:

**Drew Ford, Gwyn Templonuevo,**

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Services

## BAND

**Michael Mertz** - Piano

**Curry Duffey** - Bass

**Joe Beam** - Percussion



The stagehands employed in this production  
are members of The International Alliance of  
Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), Local 51.



The musicians employed in this production  
are members of the Houston Professional  
Musicians Association, Local 65-699, of the  
American Federation of Musicians.

## AUDIENCE PLEASE NOTE:

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performance is strictly prohibited.

The sale or distribution of such  
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# ABOUT HITS THEATRE

Since its founding in 1980 by Carolyn Franklin, HITS Theatre's goal has been to empower youth with educational theater classes in acting, singing, dancing, and production. Today, HITS is one of the leading organizations in the Houston metropolitan area that provides comprehensive musical theater training year-round for grades K-12. Group classes and coaching in all aspects of the performing arts culminate in various productions each semester at HITS' home theater located in the historic Houston Heights and at its annual production at Miller Outdoor Theatre. The HITS experience is transformational for children. Through our compassionate approach, students become disciplined team players, creative thinkers, and confident communicators – critical skills whether on stage or in the boardroom.

In 1987, HITS began a much-loved tradition of producing an annual free-to-the-public Broadway-style musical at Miller Outdoor Theatre. The professional-level presentations feature some of Houston's most talented youth. HITS took its mission outside the walls of its Heights theater and, through a partnership with the Houston Independent School District, founded a school-based theater initiative. The reason for this initiative was simple: supplementing the academics of community schools with much needed performing arts curriculum. Past partnerships include Hogg Middle School, Helms Elementary, YES Prep, Briargrove Elementary, Clifton Middle School, Harvard Elementary, River Oaks Elementary, Arabic Immersion Magnet School, The Fay School and Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart. In addition, we have local partnerships with C.A.S.E for Kids, City Connections with the City of Houston, and Children's Initiative After School Pro-gram (CIASP). By focusing on language arts, theater training, and performance technique, these programs allow HITS to broaden the scope of its mission to inspire children through the power of theater. Our most in-depth school partnerships is with Field Elementary just down the street from our theater. Over three years, our in-school programming expanded from 3rd grade theater classes to grades 3-5, and this fall we plan to serve K-5 thanks to continued support from the Cynthia Mitchell Foundation.

HITS programs serve more than 1,000 children each year. HITS offers accessibility to a performing arts education, regardless of financial status, by providing full or partial scholarships to an average of 75 percent of our financial-aid applicants. Because tuition covers only 40 percent of our annual budget, the theater relies on the generosity of corporate sponsors, family and private foundations, public funding agencies, and individuals and families. Thank you to all of our donors for their ongoing commitment to our mission, sharing this experience with us, and believing in what we do!



INSPIRING HOUSTON'S  
YOUTH THROUGH THE  
POWER OF THEATRE!



# SHOWSTOPPERS CAST

in alphabetical order

EMERSON CAMPBELL  
SYDNEY GIBSON  
OLIVIA GONZALES  
MICHAEL HILL  
MICHAEL KARASH  
MAYA KAUL  
MADELINE LEAL  
LIAM NORTON  
MEGAN NOSER  
LAUREN PHILPOTT

ALEX POWERS  
QUINN PREDDY  
ALEXA RAE  
AUBREY SCARCELLA  
ARJUN SINGHAL  
ELLA THEURER  
PETER THEURER  
GABI WAGER SALDIVAR  
KENDALL WEST  
GORDON YOUNG



# Who's Who – The Cast

**EMERSON CAMPBELL**, 15, is a 10th grader at Carnegie Vanguard High School. HITS Theatre credits: *Alice in Wonderland JR.* (Alice), *Frozen JR.* (Snow Chorus), and *Matilda the Musical* (Ensemble). Other favorite credits include *Suessical JR.* (Nido de Aguilas), and *1984* (Carnegie Theatre Co.). Emerson's performance is dedicated to Nani, my madre, and my distant padre; even though we are half a world apart, we stick together in spirit!

**SYDNEY GIBSON**, 14, is a 10th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credits: *Freaky Friday JR.* (Ellie), *Peter Pan JR.* (Iridessa and Fox), and *Annie* (Annie). Other favorite credits include *Once on This Island* (Pearl Theatre), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Kids Back Porch Productions). Sydney would like to dedicate this performance to her parents, aunt, and siblings for their unwavering love and support.

**OLIVIA GONZALES**, 16, is an 11th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Favorite credits: *Our Town* (TUTS), and *FAME!* (Kinder HSPVA). Olivia would like to thank her parents for their continued support through all her shenanigans!

**MICHAEL HILL**, 18, HITS Theatre credit: *Anything Goes*. Other favorite credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* (Spark Theatre) and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Spark Theatre).

**MICHAEL KARASH**, 13, is a 9th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credit: *Mary Poppins JR.* (Bert). Other favorite credits include *Ragtime* (The Little Boy, TUTS) and *Jerome Robbins' Broadway* (John, TUTS). Michael would like to thank his teachers, friends, and family for their encouragement and support.

**MAYA KAUL**, 11, is a 7th grader at Kinkaid. HITS Theatre credits: *All Shook Up* (Natalie), *Mary Poppins JR.* (Bert), and *Shrek the Musical JR.* (Adult Fiona). Other favorite credits include *Elf* (Ensemble/Featured, TUTS) and *Ragtime* (The Little Girl, TUTS). Maya would like to thank all her friends and family for their kindness and support.

**MADELINE LEAL**, 15, is a 10th grader at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart. Favorite credit: *Cabaret* (Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart). Madeline would like to thank her siblings and parents for always encouraging to follow her heart and do what makes her happy in life.

**LIAM NORTON**, 13, is an 8th grader at Pershing Middle School. Favorite credits: *Tosca* (Shephard Boy, Opera in the Heights) and *El Nino* (Houston Grand Opera). Liam would like to thank his voice teacher, Monica Isomura, and my parents for their guidance and support.



# Who's Who – The Cast

**MEGAN NOSER**, 18, graduated from Energy Institute High School and will attend Long Island University in the Fall. HITS Theatre credits: *Matilda the Musical* (Big Kid), *Shrek the Musical* (White Rabbit/Dancer), and *Mary Poppins JR.* (Chimney Sweep/Dance Captain). Other favorite credit: *The Big One-Oh* (Inspiration Stage). Megan would like to thank her parents for the continuous support they have given throughout this process, as well as the cast for being so incredible, and Ms. Dana and Mr. Mertz for helping her grow so much over the last 6 years.

**LAUREN PHILPOTT**, 13, is a 9th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credit: *Meet the Moment Project*. Other favorite credits include *The Wiz* (The Pearl). Lauren would like to thank her parents, Alric Davis, and Adam Wagner for their encouragement and support.

**ALEXPOWERS**, 17, is a 12th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credits: *White Christmas* (Phil), *Mary Poppins JR.* (Robertson Aye), and *Shrek The Musical* (ensemble). Other favorite credits include *The Frankenstein Project* (Ubu, HSPVA). Alex would like to thank their family and teachers for their continued support and help in developing their talents.

**QUINN PREDDY**, 8, is in 3rd grade at Bauerschlag Elementary. Showstoppers is Quinn's debut with HITS Theatre. Favorite credits include *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Woodstock, Pitch Me This YAS) and *Schoolhouse Rock LIVE! JR.* (Dori, Bay Area Arts Conservatory). Quinn would like to dedicate this performance to her Mommy, Daddy, her twin sister, Avery, her two cats, Chewy & Bella, & her two dogs, Sophie & Sadie.

**ALEXA RAE**, 17, is a 12th grader at YES PREP Northside. HITS Theatre favorite credits: *Frozen JR.* (Elsa), *Rock of Ages* (Justice) and *Shrek The Musical* (Little Piggie). Alexa would like to thank her family, HITS, and her friends for always supporting her and encouraging her to better herself through what she loves!

**AUBREY SCARCELLA**, 15, is a 10th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credits: *Anything Goes* (Ensemble), *Frozen JR.* (Olaf), and *Matilda the Musical* (Ensemble). Aubrey would like to thank her family, vocal coach, Lauren Pastorek, teachers at PVA, and the HITS family.



# Who's Who – The Cast

**ARJUN SINGHAL**, 15, is a 10th grader at St. John's School. Favorite credits include *Elf* (TUTS) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (TUTS). Arjun would like to thank his mom, dad, and sister for their relentless support and encouragement.

**ELLA THEURER**, 14, is in 9th grade at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credits: *Mary Poppins JR.* (Mary Poppins), *Aladdin JR.* (Ensemble) and *Matilda the Musical* (Lavender). Other favorite credits include *Musical Showcase* (Centerpoint Theater), and *Workshops* (Humphrey's School of Musical Theatre). Ella would like to thank her friends, family, and the creative crew at HITS for their support.

**PETER THEURER**, 12, is in 7th grade at T.H. Rogers. HITS Theatre credits: *Mary Poppins JR.* (Michael Banks), *Aladdin JR.* (Ensemble), and *Matilda the Musical* (Eric). Other favorite credits include *Mary Poppins* (HSPVA). Peter would like to thank the talented team at HITS for giving him this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show.

**GABI WAGER SALDVAR**, 17, is a 11th grader at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. HITS Theatre credits: *Matilda the Musical* (Rudolpho), *Anything Goes* (Moonface Martin), and *Shrek the Musical* (Donkey). Other favorite credits include *Once On This Island* (Papa Ge, PVA), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Pharaoh, TUTS). Gabi would like to express his gratitude to the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication. He would especially like to thank Mr. Adam and Mr. Alric for their guidance and support.

**KENDALL WEST**, 16, is an 11th grader at Trinity Classical School. HITS Theatre favorite credits: *Matilda the Musical* (Acrobat/Adult Ensemble), *Frozen JR.* (Snow/Summer Chorus), and *Crazy for You JR.* (Tess). Other favorite credits include *West Side Story* (Wildfish Theatre) & *Once on This Island* (Spark Theatre). Kendall is so grateful to her family for their love and guidance, to the production team at HITS for their endless encouragement, and to her amazing cast mates.

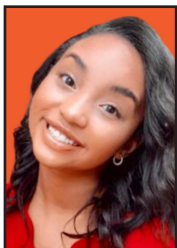
**GORDON (GT) YOUNG**, 14, is a 9th grader at Heights High School. HITS Theatre credits: *All Shook Up* (ensemble), *The Wizard of Oz* (Lion) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert). Other favorite credits include *Once on this Island* (Agwé, FBMS). Big thanks to my family and friends for all the support and love.



# Who's Who - The Cast



Emerson Cambell



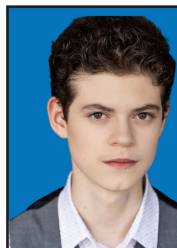
Sydney Gibson



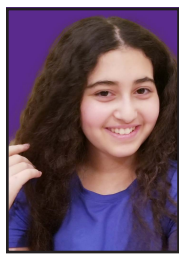
Olivia Gonzales



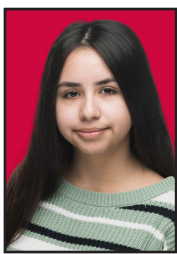
Michael Hill



Michael Karash



Maya Kaul



Madeline Leal



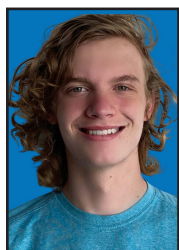
Liam Norton



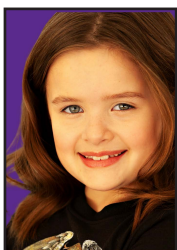
Megan Noser



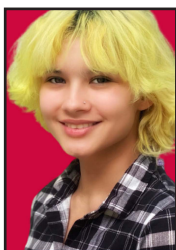
Lauren Philpott



Alex Powers



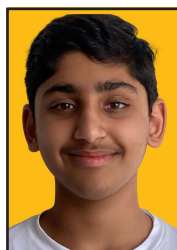
Quinn Preddy



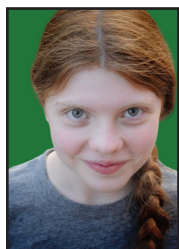
Alexa Rae



Aubrey Scarella



Arjun Singhal



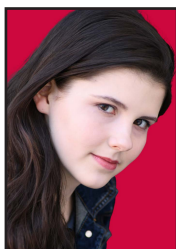
Ella Theurer



Peter Theurer



Gabi Wager Saldivar



Kendall West



Gordon Young

# Who's Who – The Creative Team

**ADAM WAGNER** (Director) Adam is originally from Chesterton, Indiana, and is a graduate of the musical theatre department at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. As a non-profit consultant with expertise in film and performing arts organizations, Adam brings experience as an arts administrator, director, choreographer, and songwriter to inspire young artists in the classroom. As an actor, he can be seen as Phil in the cult horror film, "Teeth," and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers. In 2018, Adam relocated to Houston with his dog, Chanco, to be near his mom and sister and serve as Producing Artistic Director of HITS Theatre. Since arriving, he has revamped the curriculum and created several successful new programs. Recently celebrating three years at HITS, Adam hit the ground running with several directing credits including *Mary Poppins JR*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *Frozen JR*, and *Anything Goes* (Miller 2019).

**ALRIC DAVIS** (Assistant Director) Alric has always been driven by community and the age-old tradition of preserving history through the power of words and movement. Since 2013, he has served as the Founding Artistic Director of The Sankofa Collective. He holds a B.F.A. from Howard University with a concentration in Musical Theatre and Playwriting. He is also a freelance performer, director, and adjunct instructor at Theatre Under the Stars, HITS Theatre and Stages Theatre for acting, playwriting, slam poetry, choreography and acting. Directing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Wiz* (Broadway World Award 2019), *Passing Strange*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Lion King JR*, and *Next to Normal*.

**MICHAEL MERTZ** (Music Director) Mr. Mertz is a veteran educator, coach, and professional musician. He has appeared throughout North America and Europe, performing, accompanying, and composing music for theatre, television, corporate events, and advertising. Locally, you may have seen and heard his work in productions at HITS Theatre, Alley Theatre, Queensbury Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars, Stages Theatre, Main Street Theater, HITS Theatre, Bayou City Concert Musicals, University of Houston (in collaboration with Tony-Award winning composer Jerry Bock), University of St. Thomas, and College of the Mainland. Mr. Mertz brings a wealth of experience working with young people in the Houston area as an instructor in voice, piano, and the performing arts. He is ballet pianist for HSPVA Dance Department and music director for Unitarian Fellowship of Houston.

**ASHLEY GINN** (Stage Manager) Ashley's previous stage management credits include Stages: *Panto Buttons' Sleeping Beauty*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Who's Holiday*, and *Always...Patsy Cline* at Miller Outdoor Theatre: *Ann*, and *Shear Madness*. HGOco: *Das Barbecü* and *What Wings They Were: The Case of Emeline*.

**STEPHANIE BRITTON** (Production Manager/ASM) Stephanie is excited to be joining HITS for the first time. Credits include Theatre Under the Stars - Assistant Stage Manager (*Spring Awakening*, *Seussical*, *Ragtime* and *Mamma Mia*); Humphrey School - Stage Manager (*Addams Family*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *James and the Giant Peach*); A.D. Players - Production Assistant (*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *Miracle on 34th*) Street. Stages - Stage Manager (*The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)*, *The Revisionist*, *Panto Cinderella*, *Woody Sez*, *My Manana Comes*, *Panto Wonderful Wizard*.) Rogue Productions - Stage Manager (*Love You Because*, *Touch(ed)*) BFA: University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance ('16). She would like to thank her loving friends and family for all their support and love!

# Who's Who – The Creative Team

**PETER TON** (Video Designer) Peter is a theatre director/designer and filmmaker from Houston, Texas. Stages: Stages Studio Sessions 1.0 & 2.0 (Director of Photography, Editor, Director - Teresa Zimmerman), *Panto Buttons' Sleeping Beauty* (Co-Director/Director of Photography/Editor), *A Woman of the World* (Video Designer), *Sensitive Guys*, NSFW (Assistant Director/Sound Designer), *Panto Star Force* (Assistant Projection Designer), *Swimming While Drowning* (Sound/Video Designer), *We Are Proud to Present...* (Sound/Video Designer), *Alma en Venta* (Video Designer), *My Mañana Comes* (Assistant Director/Sound Designer), *Straight White Men* (Assistant Director/Sound & Video Designer), *Miss Teen* (Sound Designer), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Video Designer), *Marie Antoinette* (Assistant Director), *Mack and Mabel* (Assistant Projection Designer); Alley Theatre: *The Carpenter* (Assistant Director); Main Street Theater: (Projection Designer) *The Cat in the Hat*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *Daisy*, *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Copenhagen*, *Bunnicula*, *Mockingbird*, *RFK*, *Red-Hot Patriot*; (Projection Engineer) *Shrek the Musical*, *Silent Sky*, Horse Head Theatre Company: (Sound/Video Designer) *The Flick*, *The Sonic Life of a Giant Tortoise*, 4th Wall Theatre Company: *The Glass Menagerie* (Projection Designer), *Reckless* (Video Designer); *Gravity Players: The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Video Designer); *Mildred's Umbrella*: (Director) *Pretty Little White Girls* (short), *The Bake Sale* (short); *Misnomers* (Director) *Glen or Glenda* (reading); Rice Players: (Director) *The Glass Menagerie*. Film / TV: (Director) "Trial Three Seven", "BLUE" (2018), "eumenides" (Cannes Film Festival, 2013); Education: B.F.A., Sam Houston State University, Theatre-Acting\Directing.  
Instagram: @currentlymouserat

**JODI BOBROVSKY** (Scenic Designer & Properties Designer) Jodi has been the staff Properties Master at Stages Theatre for 21 seasons. She is the former Properties Designer for Moores Opera for 15 seasons and properties design coordinator for *Stanton Welch's Nutcracker*. Favorite scenic designs for Stages include: *Murder for Two*, *Yankee Tavern*, *Full Gallop*, *Panto Cinderella*, *Panto Pinocchio*, *Whipping Man*, *An Infinite Ache*, and *Elizabeth Rex*. She has also designed scenery, props and costumes for Main Street Theater, 4th Wall Theater, Mildreds Umbrella, Hope Stone Dance, Classical Theater Company, Rice Players, University of Houston and Unity Theater Brenham.

**KRISTIN KNIPP** (Costume Designer) Kristin got her start as a costume designer by costuming shows that her children were in and then began working professionally designing costumes for shows such as: *Godspell*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Evita*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *It's a Wonderful Life* (Stageworks), *Footloose*, *Shrek The Musical*, and *Anything Goes* (HITS Theatre), *Unlock'd* and *Elf* (Queensbury). Kristin has recently designed costumes for two world premiere productions: *Breaking Out of Sunset Place* (Queensbury) and *For Tonight* (Queensbury). She was also the costume mistress for Houston Repertoire Ballet. Kristin won the 2014 Broadway World Houston award for her costume design of Stageworks Theatre's *Les Miserables* and the 2019 Houston Press award for her costume design of Queensbury Theatre's *Elf* and *Sideshow*. Currently, she is the costume designer and shop manager for HITS Theatre and Queensbury Theatre and works for Performing Arts Supply. She is a mom to five kids. She would like to thank Valerie Kelly for coming along for the ride again!



# Who's Who – The Creative Team

**BRYAN EALEY** (Lighting Designer) Bryan is a first-year MFA Lighting Design student at University of California San Diego. He was born and raised in Houston and holds a BA in Drama from Prairie View A&M University. Following undergrad, he went on to work at local Houston theaters as an audio and lighting technician and has toured across the country in large concert venues such as The Fox Theatre (Detroit) and Madison Square Garden (New York) as an Audio Assistant with International R&B Artist, Teena Marie - all while being an Audio Engineer and Lighting Designer at House of Blues - Houston and Lighting Director for River Pointe Church in Richmond, Texas. In the 13-year span of his professional career, he has also worked as the AVL Supervisor and Associate Production Coordinator at Stages Theatre (Houston) until his arrival at Sam Houston State University - Dance Dept. (2015 - 2020) as their Dance Technical Coordinator / Director. Along his career, he has been fortunate enough to design for several theatres and dance companies such as: Main Street, 4th Wall, Stages, The Landing Theatre Company, Houston Grand Opera, Unity Theatre, Horse Head Theatre, Classical Theatre Company, NobleMotion Dance, Open Dance Project, Social Movement Contemporary Dance, Houston Contemporary Dance, Urban Souls Dance, and Von Ussar Danceworks (New York Dance Festival) at the Alvin Ailey Theater. Bryan's passion for lighting design is rooted in the fundamental ability to shape the stage in a frame that supports, gives focus, and elevates the performance. As technical and visual artists, we are here to service the story being told, whether it's being presented through theatre, dance, or music.

**JOHN PEEPLES** (Sound Designer) John is a 2016 graduate of the University of Houston's School of Theatre & Dance with a BFA in Theatre Production. Recent sound design work includes: *The Honky Tonk Laundry* (Stages Theatre Co.), *The Hunchback of Seville* (Mildred's Umbrella Theatre, Co.; 2019 co-nomination for best sound design with Jon Harvey by Houston Press), *Wanda, Daisy & the Great Rapture* (Landing Theatre, Co.), *Well* (Mildred's Umbrella Theatre, Co.), *The Waiting Room* (Shunay Theatre), *The Johns* (Mildred's Umbrella Theatre, Co.), *Ten Ways on a Gun* (Landing Theatre, Co.), *Lidless* (Horse Head Theatre, Co.), *Fool For Love* (Landing Theatre, Co.), *Becky's New Car* (Mildred's Umbrella Theatre, Co.), and *The Hunchback Variations* (Catastrophic Theatre); 2015 nomination for best sound design by the Houston Press). Other recent work includes audio engineering and lighting for *The Consenting Bodies* reading series (Mildred's Umbrella Theatre, Co.), audio editor and sound engineer for the Houston Shakespeare Festival (2015-2019), sound engineer for *Hand of God* (Alley Theatre), and *The Alley All New Festival* (Alley Theatre). John was an assistant audio engineer and stagehand at Miller Outdoor Theatre from 2017 - 2020 and is a member of USITT, TSDCA, AES, and TCG.

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