BAH
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BUG

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A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS
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Welcome, and for many of you welcome back to *A Christmas Carol*. We are delighted to be a part of this joyous Hartford Stage tradition that has meant so much to this region for the last twenty-two years.

As the days get shorter and shorter, and darker and darker, we are all hungry for a dose of optimism and cheer. Whether you celebrate Christmas, or Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice, or any of the other extraordinary cultural and religious celebrations at this time of the year, you know how important it is to find the joy and light in this season.

We all have traditions we are grateful for around these holidays—for Melia growing up Jewish in Mexico City, she loved how her city was full of brightly lit tableaus and art, while her home had nightly candle lighting and gifts. Cynthia’s family has its own Mr. and Ms. Claus (attentive and generous parents), who since her childhood have hung an extravagant and perfectly customized stocking for each family member, and continue the tradition to this day.

Traditions bring us closer to each other, and remind us of the parts of ourselves we may have buried as we persevere through the daily-ness of life. The aspirations of Dickens’ tale are clear, and easily translatable to our individual stories: a tale of rebirth, hopefulness and transformation. Who among us doesn’t wish for success in repairing ourselves and our world, of “waking up” our souls to greater joys and generosity? And what better vehicle than live performance to tell that tale, as the theatre is where storytelling can reach its more powerful articulation.

The British author Philip Pullman writes, “After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.” Thank you for joining us for this particular holiday story, for bringing your friends and family, for sharing this tradition with us and reaffirming the power of the theatre and of community. The theatre is a way of bringing light into dark days, and we hope you’ll continue the tradition of joining us at Hartford Stage, not only during the holidays, but again in the months ahead. We have many more wonderful stories to share.

Enjoy the production, the holidays, your friends and family. We are grateful we’ve joined your community.

Melia Bensussen  
*Artistic Director*

Cynthia Rider  
*Managing Director*
Bravo

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A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

The Classic Story by CHARLES DICKENS
Adapted and Originally Directed by MICHAEL WILSON

Directed by RACHEL ALDERMAN

PRODUCERS
William & Judith Thompson

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WELCOME & ENJOY THE SHOW!

Please turn off your cell phones before the show.

For your eating and drinking pleasure, snacks, soda, wine, beer, and mixed drinks are available at our concessions bar on both levels.

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If you are using a Hartford Stage Listening Device, please remove your own personal hearing aid or make sure you turn it off if you leave it in your ear. When you remove the Hartford Stage device from your head, please make sure the volume is turned off on the device. Taking these steps will reduce the amount of static feedback from the listening system.

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There is an automated parking system for the MAT Garage, which is adjacent to Hartford Stage. Please note the procedure below and see the Box Office with any questions.

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2. Visit the Hartford Stage Box Office to purchase a Parking Voucher/Validation Ticket for only $6.50.
3. When exiting the MAT Garage, INSERT your Parking Ticket, then SCAN your Parking Voucher/Validation Ticket when prompted.

WHEN THE GATE GOES UP, YOU CAN BE ON YOUR WAY!
The MAT Garage is owned and operated by the Hartford Parking Authority.

OPEN CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES
For patrons who are deaf or have hearing loss. Free with admission.

A Christmas Carol Dec. 14, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
Pike St. Jan. 26, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
Jane Eyre Mar. 1, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
The King’s Speech Apr. 5, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
Ah, Wilderness! May 24, 2:00 & 7:30 pm

AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES
For patrons who are blind or have low vision. Free with admission.

A Christmas Carol Dec. 14, 2:00 pm
Pike St. Feb. 1, 2:00 pm
Jane Eyre Mar. 7, 2:00 pm
The King’s Speech Apr. 11, 2:00 pm
Ah, Wilderness! May 30, 2:00 pm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ebenezer Scrooge</td>
<td>Michael Preston*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Dilber <em>his housekeeper</em></td>
<td>Noble Shropshire*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamplighter</td>
<td>Evan Ayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Cratchit <em>his clerk</em></td>
<td>Robert Hannon Davis*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred <em>his nephew</em></td>
<td>Terrell Donnell Sledge*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred's Wife</td>
<td>Vanessa R Butler*</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Solicitor</td>
<td>Kenneth De Abrew*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Solicitor</td>
<td>Buzz Roddy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Toby</td>
<td>Brendan Roque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettye Pidgeon <em>a doll vendor</em></td>
<td>Rebecka Jones*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rich Lady</td>
<td>Megan Gwyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert <em>a fruit and cider vendor</em></td>
<td>Alan Rust*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Marvel <em>a watchworks vendor</em></td>
<td>John-Andrew Morrison*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertaker</td>
<td>Kenneth De Abrew*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Marley</td>
<td>Noble Shropshire*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit of Christmas Past</td>
<td>Rebecka Jones*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrooge at 14</td>
<td>Nathan Podziewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrooge at 30</td>
<td>Terrell Donnell Sledge*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Fezziwig</td>
<td>Kenneth De Abrew*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Fezziwig</td>
<td>Shauna Miles*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nichola Fezziwig's daughter</td>
<td>Natalie Noack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Fezziwig's daughter</td>
<td>Sarah Milnamow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiddler</td>
<td>Renee Hampton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Wilkins</td>
<td>Scott Burrows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guests at Fezziwig's Party</td>
<td>Pedro Fontes, Nathan Podziewski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle <em>affianced to Scrooge</em></td>
<td>Vanessa R Butler*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit of Christmas Present</td>
<td>Alan Rust*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cratchit</td>
<td>Shauna Miles*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Cratchit</td>
<td>Kiera Sheehan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Topper</td>
<td>Pedro Fontes*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred's Sister-In-Law</td>
<td>Sarah Killough*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guests at Fred's Party</td>
<td>Evan Ayer, Megan Gwyn, Nathan Podziewski, Katie Walsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit of Christmas Future</td>
<td>Himself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Josie</td>
<td>Rebecka Jones*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male Swing</td>
<td>William O'Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Swing</td>
<td>Madeline Dalton</td>
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</tbody>
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*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.

The Director and Choreographer are members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

Artists subject to change.
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Friday, January 10
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Saturday, January 11
3:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12
1:30 and 5:00 p.m. (Sign language interpreted)

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THE CAST

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Tim Cratchit.................................................................Samuel Grear or Benjamin O’Brien
Spoiled Child/Fred’s Daughter..................................................Addison Pancoast or Shannen Penn
Schoolboys............................................................Camden Bouley, Owen Bouley, Fred Faulkner, Andrew Michaels,
Sophia Camille Sherman or Leela Hatshepsowet Washington-Crowther
Boy Scrooge/Fred's Son..........................................................Ezra Mendes or Alexander O’Brien
Fan Scrooge's sister..........................................................Princess-Larrine Moore or Lillian Peng
Claire Fezziwig’s daughter..................................................Isabella Corica or Addison Guarino
Belinda Cratchit.................................................................Emma Billings or Meghan Pratt
Peter Cratchit..........................................................Nicholas Glowacki or Advaith Satish
Cider Child, Ignorance..................................................Aubrey Rose Grimes or Madison VanDeventer
Fruit Child, Want...........................................................George Faulkner or Max Kerz
Turkey Boy.............................................................Delia Canarie or Alisdair McLaren
Mr. Toby’s Apprentice.........................................................Michkael McKenzie or Julia Weston

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERMISSION.

Assistant Director .................................................................Jasmine B. Gunter
Associate Scenic Designer ..........................................................Catherine Jhung
Assistant Lighting Designer..........................................................Jimmy Lawlor
Assistant Youth Director.............................................................Cady Michaels
Dance Captain...............................................................Sarah Killough*
Production Assistant .............................................................Rachel Canowitz
Supporting Production Assistant ............................................Lizzy Gordon

Understudies never substitute for listed actors unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

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The Pryor Foundation
Charles Dickens (1812-1870) is widely considered the greatest English novelist of the Victorian era. His many novels include *A Christmas Carol*, *Oliver Twist*, *Bleak House*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations*, and *Our Mutual Friend*. Dickens was more popular during his lifetime than any previous novelist had been. His work functioned on many levels, and had a wide appeal; he was both a great comic writer and a serious and thoughtful critic of the society he lived in. The novels that were most successful in his time are not as a rule the same ones that we read most today—but *A Christmas Carol* has always been among the best-loved of his novels. He also wrote a couple of plays, and while neither of them were hits, many of the novels have been successfully dramatized and are regularly produced today.

*A Christmas Carol* was the first of Dickens’ Christmas novels—a genre he created. He conceived of and wrote it in a few weeks, in the midst of his work on the much longer *Martin Chuzzlewit*. It’s the one great Christmas myth of modern literature, and quickly entered the general consciousness. When he died, a London costermonger’s girl is said to have exclaimed “Dickens dead? Then will Father Christmas die too?” Thackeray called *A Christmas Carol* “a national benefit, and to every man and woman who reads it a personal kindness.” Dickens wrote a further Christmas book almost every year for the next two decades, but while they did well, none had such a wide effect on the general culture.

In 1858, Dickens started giving public paid readings of his work. A novelist who had once considered being an actor, he had always written work that lent itself well to reading aloud. The most popular of his readings were of *A Christmas Carol* and of the trial scene from *The Pickwick Papers*. He gave readings both in London and on tour over the next decade, culminating in a tour of the United States. A natural performer, he brought out the nuances in his work while also making good use of the dramatic effects. Each reading was about two hours in total, and these performances brought in a great deal of his income in the last decade of his life. No other major novelist (until Mark Twain) had taken on such a series of readings, and they were very successful, but they took their toll.

The American tour in 1867-68 was the last he made, and contributed to the decline in his health. In 1869 he gave a series of farewell readings in London, and famously ended them with the lines “From these garish lights I vanish now forever...” lines which were repeated only three months later on the card for his funeral. He died suddenly in 1870 at only 58, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.
**VANESSA R BUTLER**
**FRED’S WIFE | BELLE**

Hartford Stage

Queens for a Year, A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Theatre

Lear: That Old Man I Used to Know (Smith Street Stage), 48hours in Harlem (Harlem 9), Spoiled (Hess Collective), Scissoring (INTAR Theater); The Colony (Columbia Univ/Signature Theater); Terminus (NYTW: Next Door); Gross Domestic Product, Jimmy & Lorraine (HartBeat Ensemble); Romeo & Juliet (Capitol Classics Theater); Freedom in 3 Acts (Bated Breath Theater Co.); Higgins in Harlem, Theater Uncut Festival 2013, Theater Uncut Festival 2012 (Playhouse on Park); Khalas (Collective Consciousness Theater). **Film & Television** Law & Order SVU (NBC), Holiday for Heroes (Hallmark). **Awards** Connecticut Critics Circle Award 2017 Outstanding Actress in a Play. **Education** California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), MFA, acting. www.vanessarbutler.com

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**ROBERT HANNO DAVIS**
**BOB CRATCHIT**

Hartford Stage

A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Romeo & Juliet; Kiss Me, Kate; Our Town; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof; A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas; 365 Days 365 Plays; Brand:NEW: Welcome to Jesus, American Hero, Horton Foote’s The Shape of the River, Stuff Happens; Peter & Jerry: A Play by Edward Albee (u/s). **Regional** Goodspeed Musicals: Show Boat; TheaterWorks: The Exonerated (Connecticut Critics Circle Award, Best Ensemble); Shakespeare & Company, Tulane Shakespeare Festival, Swine Palace Productions, Monomoy Theatre, Playhouse on Park. **Voice & Dialect Coach** Hartford Stage (Detroit ‘67, Feeding the Dragon, Queens for a Year, An Opening in Time, Abundance, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, To Kill A Mockingbird), Goodspeed Musicals (Oliver!), Yale Repertory Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, TheaterWorks of Hartford (Relativity with Richard Dreyfuss). **Teaching** Professor of Acting, Voice and Speech at the Hartt School Theatre Division at the University of Hartford, Shakespeare & Company Training Programs, Eugene O’Neill Theater Center’s National Theater Institute, National Endowment for the Humanities’ Rose Playhouse Institute, Designated Linklater Voice Teacher. **Television** Sesame Street.

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**KENNETH DE ABREW**
**FIRST SOLICITOR | UNDERTAKER | MR. FEZZIWIG**

Hartford Stage

A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Off-Broadway Measure for Measure (Theatre for a New Audience); As You Like It (Baruch PAC). **Regional** Petrol Station (The Kennedy Center); Guards at the Taj (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company); Indian Ink (American Conservatory Theater); Cocktail (Swine Palace & Ping Chong and Company); Hair (Swine Palace); Romeo & Juliet (North Carolina Shakespeare); A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Tennessee Shakespeare).

**Television** Jessica Jones, Atlanta, The Detour, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, Gotham, Orange is the New Black, Awakafina is Nora from Queens. Film Mulan, Someone Great, This Is Where I Leave You, Submission, 4th Man Out, How Do You Type a Broken Heart?, The Book of Ned.

**Education** MFA in Acting from Louisiana State University; BA in Theater and Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University; attended Trinity College, Kandy, Sri Lanka where he started acting as a child.
**REBECKA JONES**
**BETTYE PIDGEON | SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST | OLD JOSIE**


**SARAH KILLOUGH**
**GHOSTLY APPARITION | BEGGAR WOMAN**
**FRED’S SISTER-IN-LAW | DANCE CAPTAIN**

_Hartford Stage_ *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Broadway The Lehman Trilogy (upcoming); Long Day’s Journey Into Night, Travesties. Other New York Once Upon a Mattress (Transport Group), The Village of Vale (Lincoln Center). Regional Loch Ness: A New Musical (The Rev Theatre Company); Back Home Again (Lesher Center); Les Misérables (Pioneer Theatre); 110 in the Shade, Damn Yankees, Lend Me a Tenor, Born Yesterday, Trip to Bountiful, Honk! (Monomoy Theatre) Education* The Hartt School, Interlochen Arts Academy.

**SHAUNA MILES**
**MRS. FEZZIWIG | MRS. CRATCHIT**

_Hartford Stage_ *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Broadway Radio City Christmas Spectacular; Heart and Lights. Off-Broadway No. 11 (Blue & White) (The Play Company). Regional (Selected) How to Catch Creation (Baltimore Center Stage/Philadelphia Theatre Company); The Ashes Under Gait City, One Night (Contemporary American Theater Festival); The Miracle Worker (Syracuse Stage); Well (Denver Center); The Amen Corner (Huntington Theatre Company); Witness Uganda (Workshop) (Boston Court Theatre); Reckless, Macbeth (Chautauqua Theatre Company). Film Bachelorette; Flatbush Luck. Television The Good Wife; Luke Cage; Law & Order: SVU; The Following; Elementary; Doubt; NYC 22: The Education of Max Bickford. Education* MFA, National Theatre Conservatory at The Denver Center for Performing Arts; BFA, Boston University College of Fine Arts. Awards ACTF/Kennedy Center’s Irene Ryan Award, Region I; Williamstown Theatre Festival Bill Everett Scholarship.

**JOHN-ANDREW MORRISON**
**MR. MARVEL**

_Hartford Stage_ *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Off-Broadway A Strange Loop (Playwrights Horizons, World Premiere co-production with Page 73. Original cast recording and best featured actor nomination AUDELCO Awards). His work also has been seen at La Mama, Classic Stage Company, Classical Theater of Harlem. Concerts Joe’s Pub Lincoln Center, 54 Below, ARS Nova, The Laurie Beechman. International Edinburgh Festival (Fringe First Award, London Stage Award). Education* BA from Brandeis University and MFA from UCSD. Other John-Andrew hails from Kingston, Jamaica. Next John-Andrew will be in the Off-Broadway revival of Blues for an Alabama Sky with KEEN Company.
MICHAEL PRESTON
EBENEZER SCROOGE

Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, Fräulein Maria, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (co-production with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra). Theatre Member of the Shaliko Company at La Mama in New York City, founded by Leonardo Shapiro. He also worked with such artists as John Sayles, David Cale, Wynn Handman and Theodora Skipitares. From 1991 until 2000 he toured the world as one of the Flying Karamazov Brothers, which included three different runs on Broadway. With them he collaborated on and performed 9 different shows, ranging from the post-modern tragedy Le Petomane, to an update of Room Service (winner of an L.A. critic’s award in 1998). They were nominated for an Olivier Award in London for Best Comedy in 1994. He directed their show, Life: A Guide for the Perplexed. He co-directed Peter and the Wolf with Barbara Karger, which was choreographed by Doug Elkins, in Amsterdam in 2001. Fräulien Maria (choreographed by Doug Elkins and co-directed with Barbara Karger) finished touring the country after four years in 2013. He spent many seasons as a clown with Circus Flora, based in St. Louis. He is the Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance at Trinity College, Hartford and recently directed Funny You Should Ask...The Kafka Project and The Lincoln Vaudeville (written by Christopher Baker) both there and at The Hartt School.

BUZZ RODDY
SECOND SOLICITOR

Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas.
National Tour Cheers: Live On Stage. Off-Broadway The Show-Off, (A) Loft Modulation, Cymbeline, Ben, Virginia & Me, Perfect Crime. Regional Awake And Sing (Quintessence); Red (New Century); 33 Variations and Guys And Dolls (Majestic); Last of The Red Hot Lovers (multiple productions/theatres); Barefoot In The Park (Ivoryton Playhouse); Dracula (Delaware Theatre Company); The Oxford Roof Climber’s Rebellion (Capital Rep). Film & Television The Blacklist, Lost Girls; Search Party, A Nice Girl Like You Blue Bloods, Red Oaks, The Deuce, Jessica Jones, Gotham, Younger, 30 Rock, Flight Of The Conchords, all the Law & Orders, Windows On The World, The Music Never Stopped. www.buzzroddy.com

ALAN RUST
BERT | SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas (21 years), The Trip to Bountiful. Off-Broadway The Three Musketeers. Broadway. Regional 1776 (Goodspeed Musicals); A Wonderful Life (Cleveland Playhouse); Blithe Spirit (Stage West); A Lesson From Aloes (Northern Stage); A School for Scandal (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre); The Merry Wives of Windsor; A Comedy of Errors, A Christmas Carol (North Carolina Shakespeare Festival). Professional Artistic Director, Theatre Division of The Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Artistic Director of Monomoy Theatre on Cape Cod for the 39 years.

NOBLE SHROPSHIRE
MRS. DILBER | JACOB MARLEY

Hartford Stage The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth, La Dispute, The Tempest, The 39 Steps, Noises Off!, Macbeth (2000), Our Town, A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, Brand:NEW Play Festival. Broadway Underling in The Drowsy Chaperone; Royal National Theatre’s premiere of Tennessee Williams’ Not About Nightingales with Trevor Nunn; Candida (Roundbout). Off-Broadway The Killer (Theatre for a New Audience);

**TERRELL DONNELL SLEDGE**

**FRED | SCROOGE AT 30**

**Hartford Stage** *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas.*

**Regional** Cincinnati Playhouse; Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; Alabama Shakespeare Festival; Lyric Stage Co.; The Eugene O’Neill Memorial Theatre; Actor’s Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival; Merrimack Repertory Theatre; Pioneer Theatre Co.; Trinity Rep Co.; San Diego Repertory Theatre; Cygnet Theatre; Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.; Heritage Theatre Festival NYC Boundless Theatre Company; Lark Theatre; P73; Naked Angels. **Film & Television** CBS: *Elementary*; New Millenium Studios: *Blues in The Night, Troop 491*. **Other Selected Credits** *Much Ado About Nothing, How We Got On, By The Way, Meet Vera Stark, Find and Sign, Dunkfest '88, Vieux Carre, Blood Knot, The Duchess of Malfi, We Are Proud to Present..., The Piano Lesson, Betrayal* (directed), *The Most Humane Way to Kill a Lobster* (directed), *Sally’s Rape* (directed), *The Shakers of Mt Lebanon Will Hold A Peace Conference This Month* (directed). **Education** Terrell holds an MFA from Brown University/Trinity Rep and is a Yale University graduate. @thetdsledge

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EVAN AYER
LAMPLIGHTER, GUEST AT FRED’S PARTY

Hartford Stage Debut. Regional Beauty and the Beast, Seussical (Jeans Playhouse); Romeo and Juliet, Henry IV Pt I (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); The Merry Wives of Windsor (Capital Classics). Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions Include The Cherry Orchard, Cloud 9, Rimers of Eldritch, The Taming of the Shrew.

SCOTT BURROWS
GHOSTLY APPARITION, DICK WILKINS

Hartford Stage Debut. Regional A Flea in Her Ear, 110 in the Shade, Once in a Lifetime (Monomoy). Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include Dancing at Lughnasa, The Rimers of Eldritch, The Cherry Orchard, The Taming of the Shrew, Cloud Nine.

MADELINE DALTON
FEMALE SWING

Hartford Stage Debut. Regional Tour Actor/Director with Missoula Children’s Theatre (Summer 2019). Education BFA Music Theatre, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include Brigadoon, All Shook Up, Sweet Charity.

PEDRO FONTES
GHOSTLY APPARITION | GUEST AT FEZZIWIG ‘S PARTY | MR. TOPPER

Hartford Stage Debut. Regional Present Laughter, Scapino!, Guys and Dolls, As You Like It, Little Shop of Horrors, You Can’t Take It With You (Monomoy Theatre); Jeremias Fisher (CCB); Let’s Make an Opera (Gulbenkian); Carmen (TNSC). Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include The Taming of the Shrew, Cloud 9, Significant Other.

MEGAN GWYN
RICH LADY | GUEST AT FRED’S PARTY

Hartford Stage Debut. Regional The Merry Wives of Windsor (Capital Classics). Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include: Cloud 9, Taming of the Shrew, The Cherry Orchard.

RENEE HAMPTON
FIDDLER

Hartford Stage Debut. Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include: Lin in Cloud 9, Gremio in Taming of the Shrew. Upcoming: Masha in The Seagull.

SARAH MILNAMOW
GHOSTLY APPARITION | WENDY

Hartford Stage Debut. Regional The Fantasticks, Titanic, Cinderella (Jean’s Playhouse); Urinetown (Lost Nation Theater); A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Arts After Hours). Education The Hartt School, BFA Musical Theatre; Productions include The Rimers of Eldritch, Nunsense, The Belle of Tombstone, Brigadoon.
NATALIE NOACK
GHOSTLY APPARITION | NICHOLA
Hartford Stage: Debut. Education: Current senior at The Hartt School, BFA Musical Theatre; Productions include Brigadoon, All Shook Up, Sweet Charity. Podcast Host of BroadwayRadio podcast On My Way to a BFA. Natalie would like to thank her family, teachers, and friends for their love and support. Instagram: @natalie_noack

WILLIAM O’BRIEN
MALE SWING
Hartford Stage Debut. Regional Merry Wives of Windsor (Capitol Classics). Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include Cloud 9, Taming of the Shrew, Cherry Orchard.

NATHAN PODZIEWSKI
GHOSTLY APPARITION | SCROOGE AT 14 | GUEST AT FEZZIWIG’S PARTY | GUEST AT FRED’S PARTY
Hartford Stage Debut. Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include Cloud Nine, Taming of the Shrew, The Cherry Orchard, Rimers of Eldritch, Arms and the Man.

BRENDAN ROQUE
MR. TOBY
Hartford Stage Debut. Regional Curious Incident (Hackmatack Playhouse). Education BFA Actor Training, The Hartt School, University of Hartford; Productions include Cloud 9, Taming of the Shrew, Cherry Orchard, Rimers of Eldritch.

KIERA SHEEHAN
MARTHA CRATCHIT

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EMMA BILLINGS
BELINDA CRATCHIT
Hartford Stage Debut. Education/Training Elmwood Community Center, Hartford Stage Summer Studio Sleeping Beauty Kids (Young Maleficent). Other Girl Scouts.

CAMDEN BOULEY
SCHOOL BOY
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre The Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland (Granby Memorial Middle School), The Mayor in Seussical the Musical, Big Bad Wolf/Grumpy in Shrek the Musical (East Granby Student Theatre), George in Schoolhouse Rock (Wells Road Intermediate School). Education Sixth grade at Granby Memorial Middle School. Activities Concert and Jazz Bands at his school, playing both drums and guitar.

OWEN BOULEY
SCHOOL BOY
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre JoJo in Seussical the Musical, Young Shrek/Baby Bear in Shrek the Musical, Chip in Beauty & the Beast (East Granby Student Theatre); Big Jule in Guys & Dolls, Jr. (J-ART Youth). Education Fourth grade at Wells Road Intermediate School. Activities Drum lessons since he was 4 years old; Enjoys playing sports (especially football!)

DELIA CANARIE
TURKEY BOY

ISABELLA CORICA
CLAIRE
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol. Theatre A Little Princess (Kota Productions); In Search of a Miracle, The Gift, The Long Road Home (Sound Affect International). Education/Training Jody Prusan Connecting Talent, Badienne Magaziner vocal studio, Carol Taubl (piano and coaching). Film Clifford the Big Red Dog (2020). Other Voiceover work for Pearson Publishing.

FRED FAULKNER
SCHOOL BOY

GEORGE FAULKNER
FRUIT CHILD | WANT
Hartford Stage Debut. Activities George plays ice hockey, soccer and the violin. This is his acting debut.
THE COMPANY

NICHOLAS GLOWACKI
PETER CRATCHIT
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol. Theatre You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown; Grapes of Wrath; Lion King (Connecticut Repertory Theatre). Television CEA Commercial. Training Watkinson School Ensemble; Connecticut Children’s Chorus (The Hartt School); Coaching by Michael Lamb (Lamb Theatricals, South Windsor); Vocal Training with Kate Hardman; Hartford Stage Winter Studio. Other Watkinson School Varsity Cross Country, Tennis.

SAMUEL “SAMMY” GREAR
TINY TIM
Hartford Stage Debut. Education First grade at Renbrook School. Training Hartford Stage Youth Summer Studio (2017-2019). Activities When he’s not singing and dancing he enjoys playing soccer and baking in his free time.

AUBREY ROSE GRIMES
CIDER CHILD | IGNORANCE
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Warner Theatre); Charlotte’s Web, The Velveteen Rabbit, Annie, Peter Rabbit Is Lost (New Britain Youth Theater).

ADDISON GUARINO
CLAIRE
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol. Theatre Matilda the Musical (Thomaston Opera House), Frozen Jr, Seussical Jr, Mary Poppins Jr, Peter Pan Jr (NCTC Performing Arts Theatre). Training Voice: Dan Ringuette (Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education); Dance: Erin Coffey. Awards Outstanding Arts Award, Connecticut Association of Schools 2019

MAXWELL (MAX) ALBERT KERZ
FRUIT CHILD | WANT
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol. Education Fifth Grade at Moser Intermediate School, Rocky Hill. Other Studies art at the Wethersfield Art Academy; Moser School Chorus and Band (Trumpet); plays soccer with the Rocky Hill Travel Soccer Club.

MICHAEL JUDE MCKENZIE
MR. TOBY’S APPRENTICE

ALISDAIR MCLAREN
TURKEY BOY
EZRA MENDES  
BOY SCROOGE | FRED’S SON  
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre The Gift of Christmas. Film Ballad of Chocolate Mabbie.  
Training Evjen Academy of the Arts, Studio860 Awards Royal Dance Competition 2019 (First Place Overall and in division for solo; National Competition Scholarship Recipient). Star Systems Competition 2019 (First Place Overall and in division for solo; Top Soloist; Top Choreography Award). Dancers Inc. 2019 (First Place Overall for solo).

ANDREW MICHAELS  
SCHOOL BOY  

PRINCESS-LARRINE MADELYNN MOORE  
FAN  

ALEXANDER O’BRIEN  
BOY SCROOGE | FRED’S SON  

BENJAMIN O’BRIEN  
TINY TIM  
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre Music Man, Jr.; Elf, Jr, (Colchester Community Theatre). Education Third grade. Activities Enjoys tap, LEGO League, swimming, and giving back to the community. Ben is excited to be making his Hartford Stage debut.

ADDISON PANCOAST  
SPOILED CHILD | FRED’S DAUGHTER  

LILLIAN PENG  
FAN  
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre Mulan in Mulan Jr., Miss Andrew in Mary Poppins (Thompson Brook School). Education/Training Eighth grade at Avon Middle School. Performed with CCC Senior Division in June 2019 at Universal Studio STARS Performance.
SHANNEN PENN
SPOILED CHILD | FRED’S DAUGHTER

MEGHAN PRATT
BELINDA CRATCHIT
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol, Murder on the Orient Express (voice and u/s). Theatre Matilda the Musical (Thomaston Opera House); Oliver! (Goodspeed Opera House); The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (Carriage House Theater); The Wizard of Oz (Almira F. Stephan Memorial Playhouse); various productions at NCTC, CFT, and CAST children’s theaters. Film/TV The Leap; Starlight; Rediscovering Christmas. Education/Training Goodspeed Kids Company; Voice/Acting: Joy Hermalyn; Dance: Erin Coffey.

ADVAITH SATISH
PETER CRATCHIT
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre CAST Children’s Theatre, Hartt School, Lamb Studios. Training Hartford Stage Summer Studio (Beauty and the Beast). Awards Outstanding Actor Award at Hartford Stage Summer Studio.

SOPHIA CAMILLE SHERMAN
SCHOOL BOY
Hartford Stage Debut. Theatre Willy Wonka in Willy Wonka Jr., Raccoon Twin in Peter Pan Jr., Brooklyn Newsie in Newsies, Tessie in Annie Jr.. Commercials Hasbro. Education Fourth grade at NCS. Sophia loves all things theater!

MADISON VANDEVENTER
CIDER CHILD | IGNORANCE
Hartford Stage Debut. Education/Training Hartford Stage Summer Studio. A Christmas Carol is Madison's first experience acting in a professional production.

LEELA HATSHEPSOWET WASHINGTON-CROWTHER
SCHOOL BOY
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol. Education Sage Park Middle School. Leela is a thespian at heart, and has also trained in dance and music. Leela is adding fashion designer to her belt, and will launch Thee Crown Pouch Co. in 2020.

JULIA WESTON
MR. TOBY'S APPRENTICE
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol. Theatre Anne of Green Gables, Charlotte’s Web (Watkinson School). Television It’s Our World Too (Windsor Conservation Society). Education/Training Eighth Grader at Watkinson School; Hartford Stage Summer Studio; Sheila Hodges, voice. Julia wishes to thank everyone she has met over the last few years working on A Christmas Carol who have been like a second family.

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MICHAEL WILSON
ADAPTOR | ORIGINAL DIRECTOR
Wilson’s adaptation of *A Christmas Carol, A Ghost Story of Christmas* is now in its 22nd season at Hartford Stage, where he was Artistic Director from 1998 to 2011. Published by Dramatists Play Service, Wilson’s adaptation premiered in 1990 at Houston’s Alley Theatre—where it’s now enjoying its 24th season—and its 16th season at Washington D.C.’s Ford’s Theatre. On Broadway, Wilson directed the revival (as well as the 2014 Emmy nominated Lifetime/Ostar film adaptation for which he received a 2014 DGA nomination for Best Director) of Foote’s *The Trip to Bountiful* (Cicely Tyson, Tony Award for Best Actress). He received Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his direction of Foote’s nine-hour, three-part epic, *The Orphans’ Home Cycle*, which premiered at Hartford Stage in 2009 before moving to New York where it won every major theater award. Also, on Broadway, he directed the Tony nominated revival of Gore Vidal’s *The Best Man*; and the Tony nominated new plays: *Dividing the Estate* and *Enchanted April*, among others. Off-Broadway, he has directed premieres by Eve Ensler, Marcus Gardley, Rebecca Gilman, David Grimm, John Guare, Beth Henley, Tina Howe, Christopher Shinn, and Tennessee Williams, as well as revivals of Arthur Miller (*Incident at Vichy* at Signature Theater Company, subsequently filmed for television by WNET 13 and Broadway HD) and Lanford Wilson. His other screen work includes the award-winning film *Showing Roots* by Susan Batten, starring Uzo Aduba, Maggie Grace and Elizabeth McGovern. A recipient of the Princess Grace Fellowship and Statue Awards, the Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award, the 2017 Bay Street Theater Visionary Award and along with Ben Brantley and Howell Binkley, an inaugural inductee into the R. J. Reynolds Arts Magnet High School Hall of Fame, Wilson is currently represented by the first New York revival of *The Young Man from Atlanta* at Signature Theatre & the North American premiere tour of *The King’s Speech* to Chicago, Washington D.C., Toronto, Phoenix & Hartford Stage in Spring 2020.

RACHEL ALDERMAN
DIRECTOR | ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE AT HARTFORD STAGE
Hartford Stage *Cry It Out, A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas; Assistant/Associate Director: The Flamingo Kid* (dir. Darko Tresnjak), *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, Ether Dome* (also at Alley, La Jolla Playhouse and Huntington, dir. Michael Wilson), *Gem of the Ocean* (dir. Hana Sharif). Other Directing Credits Include *Gross Domestic Product* (Hartbeat Ensemble); *Freewheelers, The Library Project, Head Over Wheels and iMarvel* (all with A Broken Umbrella Theatre), *Stories of a New America* (Collective Consciousness Theater). She is a founding ensemble member of the award-winning A Broken Umbrella Theatre, with whom she has created 12 original, site-specific, spectacle-theatre works inspired by the history of New Haven, CT. Education Proud graduate of Muhlenberg College. Rachel sends love to her husband, 2 sons and the village of friends, family and babysitters who make it all possible.

HOPE CLARKE
CHOREOGRAPHER
Hartford Stage *Resurrection, The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue, Rough Crossing, A Christmas Carol—A Free Man of Color (Lincoln Center); Caroline, or Change, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, The Tempest (also in Central Park), West Side Story, Grind, Don’t Bother Me I Can’t Cope, Purlie, Hallelujah, Baby! Off-Broadway* *The Reckoning, House of Flowers, One Last Look, Othello, A Raisin in The Sun, Dark of The Moon, International* National Theatre: *Caroline, or Change*. Regional Alliance Theater: *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Barrington Stage and Pioneer Theatre: *South Pacific, Mack and Mabel*; Lyric Opera: *Amistad*; Delacorte Theatre: *The Tempest*. Regional/Director Duke
Theater Showcase: *In Gathering;* The Multi Series at York Theatre: *Hallelujah, Baby!* Dance Soloist: Katherine Dunham Company, Talley Beatty, Louis Johnson; Principal dancer: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. **Television** *New York Undercover, Law & Order.* **Honors** Tony nomination, best choreography for *Jelly’s Last Jam;* Drama-Logue Award, Joseph Calloway Award and NAACP Image award for the same piece; first black director and choreographer to do a major tour of *Porgy & Bess* and the Dance Jazz version for Dallas Black Theatre. **Recent** For the past 2 years, a play about the Tuskegee airmen called *Fly;* directed *Cosi fan tutte* for Opera Ebony.

**TONY STRAIGES**

**SCENIC DESIGN**

**Hartford Stage** Designs include *The Great Magoo, Long Day’s Journey Into Night, The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue, Tea at Five, Noises Off!** Broadway** Designs include *Timbuktu!, A History of the American Film, John Curry’s Ice Dancing, Richard III, Sunday in the Park with George, Into the Woods, Copperfield, Harold and Maude, Golden Child, Enchanted April.* **Stage Design Sketches and Models** Included in Tobin Theater Collection at the McNay Art Museum (San Antonio, Texas); The Lawrence & Lee Theater Institute (Ohio State University); Harvard Theater Collection (Harvard University); Lincoln Center Library for The Performing Arts (New York City). **Current** Joined the Art Colony in Provincetown.

**ALEJO VIETTI**

**COSTUME DESIGN**

**Hartford Stage** *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Our Town, Frankie and Johnny, Bad Dates, Dying City and Mistakes Were Made.* **New York Holiday Inn (Broadway); Allegiance (Broadway—Drama Desk Nomination); Beautiful (Broadway, Japan, Australia, National Tour, West End—Olivier Nomination);** Works at Roundabout Theatre Company, New York City Opera, Manhattan Theatre Club, Radio City Rockettes, Primary Stages, City Center Encores!, MCC, Atlantic Theatre Company, Irish Rep and The New Group, among others. **Select Regional** Alley Theatre, Long Wharf, Old Globe, Guthrie, Williamstown, Goodspeed, La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, Paper Mill, Pittsburgh Public, Cleveland Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse and Colorado Ballet. **Opera** Chicago Lyric, New York City Opera, Minnesota Opera, Wolf Trap Opera. **Other** Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey. Recipient of the 2010 TDF/Irene Sharaff Young Master Award.

**ZACK BROWN**

**ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN**

**Hartford Stage** *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Broadway* Tony Award-winning revival of *On Your Toes* (Scenery & Costumes). **Regional** Arena Stage: *The Importance of Being Earnest, Candide, Of Thee I Sing, Animal Crackers, Tales From The Vienna Woods, On The Town, Twelfth Night, Arcadia;* Kennedy Center: *Don Quixote; Circle In The Square: 14 productions including Suddenly Last Summer, Salome (American Theatre Wing nom., set), Tartuffe (filmed for PBS, Drama Desk nom.), The Importance of Being Earnest (Tony nom.), St. Joan (Drama Desk nom., costumes), The Night of the Iguana, Devil’s Disciple, Loose Ends. Opera Company Credits* Washington Opera: Principal Designer (42 productions from 1979 to 1994, scenery and costumes); Santa Fe; San Francisco: *La Gioconda* (two Emmy Awards); Metropolitan Opera: *Rigoletto;* New York City Opera; Houston Grand Opera. **Ballet Credits** American Ballet Theatre; Milwaukee Ballet; Atlanta Ballet; Hamburg Ballet; Hamburg Staatsoper: *On The Town* (Scenery & Costumes). **Education** University of Notre Dame, Yale School of Drama.
ROBERT WIERZEL
LIGHTING DESIGN
Hartford Stage The Underpants, Divine Rivalry, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Scene, Edgardo Mine, Constant Star, Macbeth, A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, Happy Days, Loot, Romeo & Juliet, Arms and The Man, Morocco, The Stick Wife, Pericles, On The Verge, The Mystery Plays. Broadway Lady Day At Emerson’s Bar & Grill starring Audra McDonald; FELA! a musical (Tony Award Nomination); David Copperfield’s Dreams and Nightmares. Off-Broadway Roundabout Theatre Company; NYSF; MCC Theatre; Signature Theatre Company. Other Credits Mostly Mozart Festival; BAM; Whitney Museum. Regional Seattle Repertory Theatre; A.C.T. (San Francisco); Goodman Theatre; Arena Stage; Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Shakespeare Theatre Company (DC); Westport Country Playhouse; Long Wharf; The Guthrie; Mark Taper Forum and the Berkley Rep, among others. Opera Productions with the opera companies of Paris (Garnier) and Versailles (Château de Versailles Spectacles); Tokyo; Bergen (Norway); Toronto; Vancouver; Boston; Cooperstown/Glimmerglass; Chicago; Atlanta; Kansas City; Miami; San Diego; San Francisco; Houston; Washington DC; Seattle; Minnesota; Wexford/Ireland and NYCO among others. Dance Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (34 Years); Liz Gerring Dance Company; Sean Curran Company; Doug Varone. Future A Walk On The Moon, a new musical, George Street Playhouse; Deep Blue Sea, a dance/performance piece directed & choreographed by Bill T. Jones, Park Avenue Armory, NYC; Freedom Ride, a new opera, Chicago Opera Theatre; A Thousand Splendid Suns, a new play by Ursula Rani Sarma, adapted from the novel by Khaled Hosseini, Arena Stage, Washington DC. Education MFA/Yale School of Drama. Adjunct Faculty/ NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Creative Partner at Spark Design Collaborative.

JOHN GROMADA
ORIGINAL MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN

BRITTANY HARTMAN
WIG DESIGN
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas, Macbeth, La Dispute. Broadway Associate Designer: Gettin’ the Band Back Together, Bandstand, Sunset Boulevard (2017 revival), Indecent; Assistant Designer: Violet, Of Mice and Men (2014 Revival), A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder. Regional Singin’ in the Rain (Sacramento Music Circus); The Enclave (Rattlestick Playhouse); Christmas on the Rocks (TheaterWorks Hartford); Bye Bye Birdie, James and the Giant Peach (Barrington Stage Company); Urinetown (Lost Nation Theatre); Sidney Brustein (NYU).
KENNETH CLARK
MUSIC DIRECTOR

REBECCA SCHNEEBAUM
VOCAL COACH
Hartford Stage Debut. Regional The Niceties (Huntington Theatre Co); Twelfth Night, Edward II, Midsummer Night’s Dream, Richard II (Actor’s Shakespeare Project); The Glass Menagerie (Northeastern University); Flora the Red Menace, Getting Out, Stupid F**ng Bird, Incorruptible (Emerson Stage); Silent Sky, My Fair Lady, Noises Off (Merrimack College). Education Emerson College, BFA Acting, Designated Linklater Voice Teacher, Kristin Linklater Voice Center. Professional Positions Affiliated Faculty Emerson College, Guest Lecturer Boston University CFA, Voice Faculty Shakespeare & Company. www.rebeccaschneebaum.com

DERRIC HARRIS
ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER

ROBERT W. HENDERSON, JR.
ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Recent credits include Tepkik by Jordan Bennett, Of Granite and Glass choreographed by Catherine Galasso, Rush Hour Romance, Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra: Renaissance & Renewal, and New Sounds Live: David Bowie’s Berlin Trilogy, Winter Garden Atrium, NY; Resident Lighting Designer, Theatre Three, NY; West Side Story, Short North Stage, OH; Tiffany & Co. flagship store display windows, NY; Arizona fragrance launch flagship windows, and select special events, Saks, NY; permanent exhibition of the Chinese Collection, Norton Museum of Art, FL; Waterfront, Brooklyn Historical Society, NY. Education MFA from NYU’s TSOA Department of Design. Member USA829. www.pleung.co

SHELBY DEMKE
YOUTH DIRECTOR
Hartford Stage The Piano Lesson, A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Off-Broadway Beneath the Gavel! (59E59 Theaters). Educational Erismena (Yale Baroque Opera Project); The Little Mermaid, Footloose, Once Upon A Mattress (Metropolitan Learning Center); Shrek, Jr, Oliver T!, Romeo and Winifred, Sing’in’ in the Rain, Jr., Pippin, Mary Poppins, Jr., The Addams Family, Beauty and the Beast, Jr. (Education @ Hartford Stage). Education Muhlenberg College.
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MARTIN LECHNER
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Hartford Stage A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas. Regional Worked at various regional theatres including: Weston Playhouse, American Repertory Theater, The Shakespeare Theatre, DC; The Shakespeare Theatre Of New Jersey, Alley Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, The Guthrie. Education University Of California, San Diego. Other Extensive touring, including national tours of Mamma Mia!, Jolson: The Musical, Cinderella, Blast 2: Shockwave, classical touring theatre with The Acting Company and American Repertory Theater, musical review shows, dance pieces, and cultural shows from China and Japan, including Kodo.

KELLY HARDY
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
MELIA BENSUSSEN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Melia Bensussen joined Hartford Stage in the summer of 2019 as the sixth Artistic Director of the organization. A homecoming of sorts, her first professional theatre experience was assisting Emily Mann on Hartford Stage’s production of A Doll’s House. She then returned to Hartford Stage in 2003 to direct Edwin Sanchez’s production of Diosa. Since then she has directed extensively at leading theatres throughout the country, including productions at the Huntington Theatre Company, Sleeping Weazel, Shakespeare & Company, Actors’ Shakespeare Project, La Jolla Playhouse, Baltimore Center Stage, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the New York Shakespeare Festival, Manhattan Class Company, Primary Stages, Long Wharf Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, People’s Light and Theatre Company, Bay Street Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, among others. Raised in Mexico City, Melia is fluent in Spanish and has translated and adapted a variety of texts, including her edition of the Langston Hughes translation of Federico Garcia Lorca’s Blood Wedding, published by Theatre Communications Group. She has received an Obie Award for Best Director (Off-Broadway’s top honor), as well as receiving several awards from the Princess Grace Foundation, including their Statue Award for Sustained Excellence in Directing. A graduate of Brown University, Melia previously served as the Chair of the Performing Arts Department at Emerson College, and currently serves as the Chair of the Arts Advisory Board for the Princess Grace Foundation. She also serves on the executive board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). Melia loves directing new works as well as classics, viewing every production as an opportunity to introduce an audience to a new story and a different perspective. She is thrilled to be a part of this great theatre, and a new resident of Hartford.

CYNTHIA RIDER
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Cynthia Rider joined Hartford Stage in the summer of 2019 as the eighth Managing Director of the organization. Previously, she served as the executive director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF). While at OSF, she successfully worked with the board in the creation of a ten-year strategic plan, oversaw an increase in contributed income of more than 20 percent, and participated in artistic initiatives that resulted in three OSF-commissioned plays moving to Broadway, with one winning the Tony Award for Best Play (All The Way) and another winning the Pulitzer Prize (Sweat). Additional highlights of Rider’s successful tenure at OSF include the creation of the Access for All campaign, which renovated the courtyard in front of OSF’s theatres and added an elevator and wheelchair seating to the Bowmer Theatre, and the opening of the new Hay-Patton Rehearsal Center—all while producing a repertory season of eleven productions in three theatres, managing an annual operating budget of $40 million and offering a number of educational and community engagement programs for audiences and students. Prior to joining OSF, Cynthia Rider spent nine years at Kansas City Repertory Theatre as Managing Director and, earlier, as Associate Director for Advancement and Administration. Her experience also includes six years as Executive Director of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey. She served as Associate Director, later promoted to Acting Director, of the Massachusetts Manufacturing Partnership, which worked to strengthen small and medium-sized manufacturers across the state. Rider’s theatre experience also includes time spent on the stage. After graduating from Boston University, she started her theatre career as a resident company member, guest artist and young company actor at the Alley Theatre in Houston.
ABOUT HARTFORD STAGE

ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Williamson is in her eighth season at Hartford Stage. In addition to serving as Associate Artistic Director, she also leads new play development for the company. Hartford Stage as Dramaturg: The Flamingo Kid, The Engagement Party, Make Believe, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Heartbreak House, Romeo and Juliet, Anastasia, The Body of an American, Rear Window, An Opening in Time, Hamlet, Reverberation, Macbeth, Somewhere, A Song at Twilight, Twelfth Night, Man in a Case, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder and others; as Director: Cloud 9, Seder, Henry V; as Translator/Adapter: La Dispute. Broadway as Dramaturg: A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder (Tony Award for Best Musical), Anastasia, The Inheritance. London’s West End as Dramaturg: The Body of an American (Primary Stages), A Song at Twilight (Westport Country Playhouse), Touch(ed), In, Find and Sign, The Tempest and others (Pioneer Theatre Company), M. Proust (Steppenwolf), Mefistofele (Theatre de la Jeune Lune); as Director: The Life and Death of Pier Paolo Pasolini (Act French Festival, Abingdon), The Floating World (HERE), Rare Bird (Babcock Theatre), Owners (Alter), The Second Amendment Club (AMS), The Maids (FringeNYC). Education BA Theatre and Comparative Literature, Bennington College; MSt European Literature, Oxford University; trained at the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq. Awards NEA Fellowship in Literary Translation.

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Jackie Heckel Assistant Master Electrician

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL—A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

35
Hartford Stage enters its 56th season beginning an exciting new chapter. Newly-appointed Artistic Director Melia Bensussen and Managing Director Cynthia Rider will continue the theatre’s legacy of artistic excellence by creating theatrical works that enlighten, entertain, and educate.

Renowned for producing innovative revivals of classics, as well as provocative new plays and musicals, Hartford Stage has earned many of the nation’s most prestigious awards, including the 1989 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Additional national recognition includes honors from the Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, American Theatre Wing (OBIE), and the New York Critics Circle.

Hartford Stage has produced over 80 world and North American premieres, including the new musical Anastasia, which enjoyed a two-year run on Broadway; A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, winner of four 2014 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical; and Quiara Alegría Hudes’ Water by the Spoonful, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Other notable premieres include The Engagement Party by Samuel Baum; Make Believe by Bess Wohl; The Age of Innocence by Douglas McGrath; Seder by Sarah Gancher; Rear Window, adapted by Keith Reddin, and starring Kevin Bacon; An Opening in Time by Christopher Shinn; Reverberation by Matthew Lopez; Big Dance Theatre’s Man in a Case with Mikhail Baryshnikov; and Breath & Imagination by Daniel Beaty. Nationally-renowned titles include the New York transfers of Enchanted April; The Orphans’ Home Cycle; Resurrection (later retitled Through the Night); The Carpetbagger’s Children; and Tea at Five.

The leading provider of theatre education programs in Connecticut, Education @ Hartford Stage offers student matinees, in-school theatre residencies, teen performance opportunities, theatre classes for students (ages 3-18) and adults, after school programs and professional development courses. Education @ Hartford Stage programming reaches approximately 21,000 Connecticut students annually.
The Hartt School/Hartford Stage Partnership in Training

Now in its sixteenth year, The Hartt School/Hartford Stage Partnership in Training offers a unique alliance of an undergraduate acting conservatory program and a respected professional theatre—one of only two such collaborations in the country. This partnership helps ensure that acting students at the Hartt School receive rigorous training and bring their skills, imagination and intellect to the demands of a professional theatre setting. Hartford Stage staff and guest artists lead classes and workshops and faculty and students appear in Hartford Stage productions. Hartt students have been seen in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Noises Off!, To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Antony & Cleopatra*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *The Crucible*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *Anastasia*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Henry V*, *The Flamingo Kid* and *Quixote Nuevo*.

The University of Massachusetts Graduate Internships at Hartford Stage

Linking one of the most respected graduate programs in theatre with the Tony Award winning Hartford Stage, the University of Massachusetts Graduate Internships give Master of Fine Arts students in design, directing and dramaturgy the opportunity to work alongside the country’s most exciting artists. The Graduate Internships provide a valuable professional testing ground for students and are a natural complement to the practical, hands-on approach of UMass’ graduate program. In turn, Hartford Stage is enriched by the participation of the next generation of theatre artists. UMass students have worked on *Boeing-Boeing*, *Zerline’s Tale*, *Gee’s Bend*, *Motherhood Out Loud*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *The 39 Steps*, *Macbeth*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Reverberation* and *Cry It Out*.

Capital Community College

This season will mark the ninth season of the One Play Program—a partnership between Hartford Stage and Capital Community College, designed to give the entire college community the opportunity to come together around one play each semester. In addition to offering discounted tickets for students and faculty, the program also brings members of each production’s creative team to the College to interact with students. Last season, 601 Capital students saw a performance at Hartford Stage, many reporting it was their first time at the theatre. This season’s One Play productions are *Cry It Out* and *Jane Eyre*. During the 2017-2018 academic year, in partnership with Hartford Stage and other Hartford theatre companies, Capital began to offer a new associate’s degree in theatre.
Improve Their Holiday Dramatically

For the theatre lover in your life
3 & 4-Play Subscription Packages
Or Single Tickets for these shows:

**Pike St.**
Written & Performed by Nilaja Sun
Directed by Ron Russell
January 9-February 2, 2020

**Jane Eyre**
By Charlotte Brontë
Adapted & Directed by Elizabeth Williamson
February 13-March 14, 2020

**The King’s Speech**
By David Seidler
Directed by Michael Wilson
March 19-April 19, 2020

**Ah, Wilderness!**
By Eugene O'Neill
Directed by Melia Bensussen
May 7-31, 2020

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A LOOK AT OUR LOBBY
On December 17, 2019, Hartford Stage will present the 1000th performance of *A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas*. In celebration of this milestone, our upper lobby will showcase Christmases past and present with photos from our 22 seasons of *A Christmas Carol*.

PROJECT: TRANSFORM RETURNS!
Project: Transform, a free program which provides Connecticut high school students with the opportunity to speak their mind about the change they want to see in their neighborhoods, community and world, will culminate with two public performances on December 14 and 15. This year, 13 participating students are creating a collaborative devised theatre piece under the guidance of guest artist Nilaja Sun (*Pike St.*). Project: Transform was made possible this year via a crowdfunding campaign launched last spring by members of Stage One, the young professional arm of the Hartford Stage Board. Funds were generously matched through a corporate gift from Locke Lord LLP.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HARTFORD STAGE GALA!
Hartford Stage’s “Party of the Year” is set for Saturday, April 18, 2020. Please mark your calendars for the Heart of Connecticut Ball! The gala raises essential funds for Hartford Stage’s artistic and educational programs. Be a part of this unforgettable night! For information on attending the Gala, please contact Jennifer Levine at jlevine@hartfordstage.org or 860-520-7241.

UP NEXT: PIKE ST. (JANUARY 9 TO FEBRUARY 2, 2020)
If you loved *Feeding the Dragon*, you won’t want to miss *Pike St.*, a solo tour de force from acclaimed playwright, actor and teaching artist Nilaja Sun. Sun vividly brings to life three generations of a Puerto Rican family living on New York’s Lower East Side in *Pike St.* Evelyn, a mother struggling to hold her life together with both grace and humor as she cares for her immobilized daughter and supports her womanizing father, relies on money from her brother who is serving abroad in Afghanistan. When he comes home, suffering from PTSD, Evelyn fights for her family’s healing, redemption and survival in the face of a threatening storm – both natural and man-made.
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