

IN THE HEIGHTS



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October/November 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

A very warm welcome to NYC's Washington Heights at Boston's WFT! *In the Heights* reveals the world of a vibrant, close-knit, multi-generational, predominantly Latinx community on the brink of change. We hope you enjoy Lin-Manuel Miranda's music and lyrics and Quiara Alegría Hudes' beautiful prose, and connect with the show's characters and universal messages.

The story of *In the Heights* is deeply personal on many levels for most of the cast. Like the characters Abeula Claudia, her "adopted" grandson Usnavi, and the Piragua Guy, several cast members are immigrants from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. Like Nina Rosario, who "made it out" of the barrio, several cast members are the first generation in their family to attend college. Also, five of the 25 cast members are teenagers, in keeping with WFT's tradition of giving youth the opportunity to perform alongside – and learn from – professional adult actors, and of giving the many children in our audience the chance to see themselves (or their future selves) represented on stage.

Lin-Manuel Miranda recently said that most of the best ideas come from collaboration, not soliloquy. Indeed, the talent, generosity, and commitment of everyone involved in this production has been both humbling and heartening. Our gratitude and admiration to director/choreographer Rachel Bertone, musical director Dan Rodriguez, designers, production team, cast, and crew. In Rachel's words: *This is a story with a message that needs to be told right now. The subject matter presented almost 10 years ago is still, if not more, relevant today. The world is hurting, and there are voices that desperately need to be heard. Our mission is to give hope to those who are seemingly powerless and remind them that anyone can rise up, go far, and reach their dreams. Miranda is one of my biggest inspirations. He has an amazing ability to make everyone (actors and audiences alike) feel included, and empathize with the characters in his stories. My goal is for this cast to connect with our audiences in the same way – to make everyone in our theatre feel a part of the community we have built.*

We hope our production will spark questions and conversations about where we come from and where we need to be, where we feel we belong and where we feel at home. Thank you for being part of our family, and for calling Wheelock Family Theatre home.

Siempre (Always),

Linda Chin, *Producing Artistic Director*

And the staff of WFT: Jamie Aznive, Kay Arden Elliott, Jeri Hammond, Matthew Lazure, Steve McGonagle, Keith Orr, Nick Vargas, Brian Christopher Williams



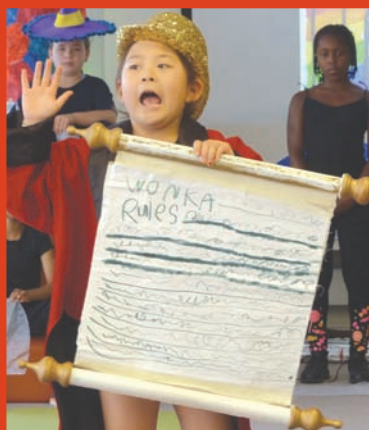
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Wheelock Family Theatre Advisory Board

WFT's Advisory Board is a group of dedicated individuals from broad and diverse segments of the community who provide support and expertise to WFT's staff and artists on an ongoing basis. We are grateful for their insights and their enthusiasm.

Carola Cadley, Co-Chair, VP, Corporate Development and Marketing, Children's Hospital Trust, Boston

Carole Charnow, Vice Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer, Boston Children's Museum

Jeff Coburn, Co-Chair Emeritus, Managing Director, Coburn Consulting, Boston

Mindy d'Arbeloff, Co-Chair, Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office of Governor Charlie Baker, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Lauren Doherty, Parent Volunteer, Dover

Priscilla Fales, Retired Teacher, Occasional Assistant to the Director, Wheelock Family Theatre

Ellie Friedland, Associate Professor, Early Childhood Education, Wheelock College, Boston

Andrea (Andi) Genser, Executive Director, WE CAN Corporation, Harwich Port

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Meegan Gliner, Fine Arts Chair, Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School, Hyde Park

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Susan Kosoff, Co-Founder, Wheelock Family Theatre

Meenakshi B. Kumar, M.D., Functional Medicine, Family Medicine, Palliative Care Physician, Kumar Conscious Health, LLC, Boston

Brooke Sandford, Parent Volunteer, Sudbury

Jane Staab, Co-Founder, Wheelock Family Theatre

Wheelock Family Theatre extends deep appreciation to the following members of the Wheelock College community for their support:

Dr. David Chard, President; **Marjorie Hall**, Chair of Arts; **Ed Jacques**, Director of Facilities; **Anne Marie Martorana**, VP and Chief Financial Officer; **Stephen Muzrall**, Assistant VP for Development; **Larisa Pazmiño**, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations; **Jennifer Rice**, VP for Development and Alumni Affairs; and **Jake Wilkenfeld-Mongillo**, Marketing Manager.



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IN THE HEIGHTS

Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda Book by Quiara Alegría Hudes

Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda

DIRECTOR Rachel Bertone	CHOREOGRAPHER Rachel Bertone	MUSICAL DIRECTOR Dan Rodriguez	SET DESIGNER Jenna McFarland Lord
LIGHTING DESIGNER Franklin Meissner, Jr.	COSTUME DESIGNER Marian Bertone	PROPS DESIGNER Matthew T. Lazure	SOUND DESIGNER Andrew Duncan Will
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Nicky Carbone*	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez*	AUDIO DESCRIBERS Cori Couture & Ruth Celia Kahn	

THE CAST

Usnavi De La Vega	Diego Klock-Perez*
Nina Rosario	Laura Lebrón Rojas
Kevin Rosario	Luis Negrón*
Camila Rosario	Rosi Amador
Benny	Darren Bunch*
Vanessa	Iliana Garcia
Sonny	Diego Guevara
Abuela Claudia	Johanna Carlisle Zepeda
Daniela	Yewande O. Odetoyinbo
Carla	Kira Troilo
Graffiti Pete	David Alea
Piragua Guy	Tony Castellanos*

ENSEMBLE: Ceci Cipullo, Marshall Joun, AJ Manuel Lucero, Zachary D. McConnell, Selena Mercado, Malik Mitchell, Katrina Z. Pavao, Ryoko Seta*, Lance-Patrick Strickland, Alexa Wang, Kelton Washington, Caroline Workman*

UNDERSTUDIES: David Alea (Usnavi De La Vega), Tony Castellanos (Kevin Rosario), AJ Manuel Lucero (Piragua Guy, Sonny), Selena Mercado (Nina Rosario, Vanessa), Yewande O. Odetoyinbo (Camila Rosario, Abuela Claudia), Kelton Washington (Benny), Karina Wen (Female Swing)

TIME: July 3rd through July 5th. **SETTING:** One block of Washington Heights, Manhattan. One side of the street is Rosario's Car Service with dispatch booth. Usnavi & Claudia's front stoop is next door. Across the street is De La Bodega and Daniela's Unisex Salon. Apartment windows and fire escapes tangle the landscape. A blurry view of the bridge is in the background.

The taking of photographs and use of video or audio recording devices is strictly forbidden.

Please turn off all electronic devices. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre.

There will be one 15-minute intermission between the acts.

Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

Development of *In the Heights* was supported by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center during a residency at the Music Theatre Conference of 2005.

Originally Produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, Jeffrey Seller, Jill Furman Willis, Sander Jacobs, Goodman/Grossman, Peter Fine, Everett/Skipper

Wheelock Family Theatre is a member of ArtsBoston; Cultural Access New England (CANE);

MASSCreative; and StageSource, the Alliance of Theatre Artists and Producers.

The lighting designer of this production is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



MUSICAL PROGRAM

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Washington Heights, sunrise, IN THE HEIGHTS	Usnavi & Company
Scene 2: On the street, BREATHE	Nina & Company
Scene 3: Rosario's Car Service, BENNY'S DISPATCH	Benny & Nina
Scene 4: The Street, IT WON'T BE LONG NOW	Vanessa, Usnavi & Company
Scene 5: The Dispatch Booth, INUTIL (Useless).....	Kevin
Scene 6: The Salon, NO ME DIGA	Daniela, Carla, Vanessa & Nina
Scene 7: Inside the Bodega; the Street, 96,000	Usnavi, Benny, Sonny, Vanessa, Daniela, Carla & Company
Scene 8: The Street, PACIENCIA Y FE (Patience and Faith).....	Abuela Claudia & Company
Scene 9: Abuela Claudia's Stoop, early evening, WHEN YOU'RE HOME	Nina, Benny & Company
Scene 10: The Street, dusk, PIRAGUA	Piragua Guy
Scene 11: The Rosario Household, SIEMPRE (Always).....	Camila & Bolero Singer
Scene 12: The Club, THE CLUB	Company

BLACKOUT Company

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Benny's Fire Escape, Sunday morning, SUNRISE	Nina, Benny & Ensemble
Scene 2: Outside the Bodega; the Rosario Fire Escape	
Scene 3: Interior of Usnavi & Abuela's Apartment, HUNDREDS OF STORIES	Abuela Claudia & Usnavi
Scene 4: Outside the Dispatch Booth, ENOUGH	Camila
Scene 5: The Street, CARNAVAL DEL BARRIO	Daniela & Company
Scene 6: The Dispatch Booth, ATENCION	Kevin
Scene 7: The Street, ALABANZA	Usnavi, Nina & Company
Scene 8: The Street, later that afternoon, EVERYTHING I KNOW	Nina
Scene 9: Outside the Salon, NO ME DIGA (REPRISE).....	Daniela, Carla & Vanessa
Scene 10: The Street, PIRAGUA (REPRISE).....	Piragua Guy
Scene 11: The Bodega, CHAMPAGNE	Vanessa & Usnavi
Scene 12: The Dispatch Booth, WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN	Nina & Benny
Scene 13: A Shady Alleyway, late at night	
Scene 14: The Street, Monday morning sunrise	

FINALE Usnavi & Company

ORCHESTRA

Dan Rodriguez, Conductor/Keyboard 1

Mindy Cimini, Keyboard 2 (John Eldridge sub) **Tom Young**, Guitar **Rusty Chandler**, Bass
Zack Hardy, **Josh Goldman**, Drums, Percussion **Jeff Leonard**, Reeds (Astro Asadoorian sub)
Matt Putnam, Trumpet **Rick Copeland**, Trombone
J. Kathleen Castellanos, **Asher Denburg**, **Nathan Urdangen**, Rehearsal Pianists



* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the United States. WFT is operating under the terms of a Developing Theatre's Program of Actors' Equity Association. The contract used is a Letter of Agreement.



Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the



Wheelock Family Theatre

STAFF

Producing Artistic Director	Linda Chin
Director of Education, Outreach, & Community Engagement	Jeri Hammond
Associate Artistic Director & Education Director	Nick Vargas
Manager of Marketing & Development	Keith Orr
Audience Services Manager	Jamie Aznive
Special Projects	Kay Arden Elliott
Technical Director	Steve McGonagle
Resident Designer, Properties, & Scenic Painter	Matthew T. Lazure
Assistant Technical Director	B.C. Williams

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Director	Meredith Gosselin
Wardrobe Shop Manager & Costumer	Zoë Sundra
Master Electrician	Becky Marsh
Audio Describers	Cori Couture & Ruth Celia Kahn
ASL Coach	EJ
ASL Interpreters	Christopher Robinson, Chris Pratt, Krystal O'Chung
Crew Chief	Kyle Hanscom
Crew	Kailey Bennett
Wardrobe Crew	Ashley Rabon
Sound Engineer	B.C. Williams
Captioning	Jamie Aznive, coordinator Ruth Celia Kahn, compositor Sheelagh Cook, Makida Fantaye, Emily Raftery-Smith, Ngoc Dung Tran
Scenic Painters & Carpenters	Jeff Gardiner, Jerry Wheelock, Jenya Zhilina, New England Scenic
Props Assistant	Anika Nayak
Electricians	Benjamin Cuba, Gregory A. Hanawail, Amanda Holt, Michael Jarvis, Lillian McMunor, Veronica Rae Morales, Rebecca O'Leary
Season Artwork	Jackie Littman

EDUCATION PROGRAM FACULTY

Marianne Adams, Katherine Akerly, Esme Allen, Nick Anastasi, Christy Betit, Brynnalee Blackmar, Danny Bolton, Alexandra Brodsky-Benedetti, Cori Couture, Laura DeGiacomo, Julia Deter, Andrea Doane, John Eldridge, Rebecca Elowe, Donna Folan, Paula Fonseca, Ellie Friedland, Ellis Gage, Jon Goldberg, Patrick Holland, Jen Alison Lewis, David Lien, Dev Luthra, Rachel Maddox, John Manning Jr., Angie Jepson Marks, Kortney Adams Martin, Eva Murray, Grace Napier, John O'Neil, Beth Peters, Kiran Raza, Dan Reulbach, Taelen Robertson, Sophie Rich, Samantha Richert, M. Lynda Robinson, Brittany Rolfs, Matthew Romero, Rebecca Schneebaum, Fran Weinberg, Alan White

CREWS, WORK/STUDY STUDENTS, AND INTERNS

Christina Bebe, Raegen Docca, Hanna Gootee, Carolyn Lopez, Megan Mackinnon, Kennedy Morrow, Eliu Olmo, Kiran Raza, Anthony Romero, Jessica Romero, Shanelle Tayler, Isabella Vitti, Sierra White

SPECIAL THANKS

AIDS Action Committee; Joanne Baez; Charles G. Baldwin; Glenn Cook; Cotney Family; Neil Gustafson; Sanjeev Joshi; Stephen Reinstein; Frank Romero and members of the Wheelock College Facilities staff; Maggie Seelig; Evelyn Shen; Nancy Viall Shoemaker; Katherine Tong; Jerry Wheelock; Carol Whitehead; Jake Wilkenfeld-Mongillo; Tom Workman

We wish to thank all the people who have joined with us since the program went to press.



David Alea (*Graffiti Pete, u/s Usnavi*), a senior Musical Theatre major at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee (BoCo), is very excited to make his WFT debut. Previous credits include: *Yonkers in Gypsy* (Lyric Stage); Bernardo in *West Side Story*; Amos in *Chicago*; and Gangster 2 in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Summer Rep); Ensemble in *Catch Me If You Can* (BoCo); and Ensemble/Eddie and Pablo u/s in *Sister Act* (Theatre By The Sea). David thanks his unbelievable family and friends, and this amazing cast and crew!

Rosi Amador (*Camila*) was born to Puerto Rican and Argentine performer parents and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A transplanted Latina, she's a passionate entrepreneur, dedicated to using her voice to build cross-cultural bridges and a more just planet. She enthusiastically performed in multiple musicals throughout her high school and college years, frequently in major roles. Rosi is the lead singer and founder of the award-winning Latin band Sol y Canto as well as a busy voiceover actor and founder of Amador Bilingual Voiceovers. She records for PBS, OXFAM, L'Oreal, Royal Caribbean, The Smithsonian, and Discovery Familia, among others. She's thrilled to be in *In The Heights!* When she and her family saw the production on Broadway, she recalls thinking "too bad this amazing play that resonates for me so profoundly didn't exist when I was younger." Playing Camila is an enormous gift and surprise for which she is immensely grateful. She thanks her family, Brian, Alisa, and Zia, for the loving encouragement that got her back on the theatre stage, and the WFT for inviting her!

Marian Bertone (*Costume Designer*) has been designing costumes in the Boston area for over 30 years and is currently the designer for the dance department at BoCo. She was the costume designer and wardrobe director for the dance and theatre departments at Walnut Hill School for 18 years and has also served as costumer for Prometheus Dance and Jose Matéo Ballet Theatre. Theatre credits include: *Musical of Musicals*, *The Wild Party* (IRNE nomination) and *Barnum* (Moonbox), *42nd Street*, *Anything Goes*, *How to Succeed...*, *Spring Awakening*, *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Sweet Charity*, *...Millie*, *Once on this Island*, *Songs for a New World*, *Urinetown*, and *Wonderful Town*, as well as *Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and *Vanya & Sonya*, *Masha & Spike* (Walnut Hill). Ballet credits include: *Nutcracker*, *Balanchine's Serenade*, and *Who Cares*, and numerous original classical and contemporary repertory pieces.

Rachel Bertone (*Director/Choreographer*) is thrilled to be making her directorial debut with WFT! Her credits for Direction/Choreography include *Carousel* (IRNE Award Best Choreography, IRNE nomination Best Direction), *The Wild Party* (IRNE Award Best Musical), *Gypsy*, *Barnum*, *Show Boat*, *Musical of Musicals*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, and *Creative License*. Choreography credits: *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Billy Elliot*, *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, *Les Misérables*, *Company*, *Camelot*, *City of Angels*, *Big River*, *Animal Crackers*, *A New Brain*, *Floyd Collins*, and *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Credits as Assistant Director include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Les Misérables*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Rachel has performed with Lyric Stage, Reagle, Fiddlehead, Liars & Believers, Boston Ballet, and Prometheus

Dance. She serves on the faculties of BoCo, A.R.T. Institute at Harvard, and Emerson College, and holds a BFA from BoCo. Up next, Rachel will be directing and choreographing *Cabaret*.

Darren Bunch (*Benny*) is excited to be bringing his colorful home in NY to the stage in his original home of Boston! NYC: *Ben*, *Virginia*, and *Me* (NYMF) and *City of Light* (SheNYC Festival). Select Regional: *The Scottsboro Boys* and *Far From Heaven* (SpeakEasy); *Dreamgirls* (NSMT); *Grease* (Theatre By The Sea); *For Tonight* (Goodspeed Opera House); and *A Chorus Line*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Kiss Me Kate* (Reagle). Big thanks to his agency for always having his back, to Rachel and Dan for this opportunity, and to his mom for dealing with a teenage Darren trying to (badly) rap along to this album in high school and still supporting his dreams anyway. Proud member of AEA! Find him on social media! @darrenmbunch

Nicky Carbone (*Production Stage Manager*) is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association working primarily as a stage manager and mentor in the Boston and South Shore region. Favorite credits include: *Gypsy* (Lyric Stage); *Crazy For You*, *...Millie*, and *Carousel* (Reagle); *Mary Poppins* and *A Year with Frog and Toad* (WFT); *She Loves Me* and *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (MMAS); *Eurydice* and *Our Town* (ACT); and *August: Osage County* (CCT). Mentor credits include: *Harriet Tubman: An American Moses*, *Face Forward*, *Eris' Chain*, *Macbeth*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Trial of Madeline Gee*, and *As You Like It* (MCC). With love and thanks to C for Everything, Always.

Tony Castellanos (*Piragua Guy, u/s Kevin*) is making his WFT debut! He recently played Pablo in *Sister Act* at Arkansas Rep, Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, and Riverside Theatre in Florida. Other credits include *My Fair Lady* and *City of Angels* (Lyric Stage), *In the Heights* (SpeakEasy), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Theatre By The Sea), *Man of La Mancha* (Seacoast Rep), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (National Tour). Originally from Phoenix, Tony earned his BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Arizona, Tucson. Thank you Rachel and WFT for the opportunity to finally play the PIRAGUA GUY!!!

Ceci Cipullo (*Ensemble*) is very excited to be part of *In the Heights!* Previously at WFT, she appeared in *Charlotte's Web*, *Trumpet of the Swan*, *Mountain...Moon*, *Oliver!*, and *The Miracle Worker*, and she is thrilled to be here again. Ceci has also performed with Fiddlehead, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, and Cape Cod Theatre Co. So many thanks to Rachel and Jane, as always. ¡Disfruta la obra!

Cori Couture (*Audio Descriptor*) has provided description for WFT, the Huntington, Open Door Theater, New Rep's Classic Rep, Liars and Believers, Bridge Media, and Harvard Business School. She has presented about audio description for live theatre for the Mass Cultural Council's UP initiative and for CANE (Cultural Access New England), and she has led pre-show touch tours at the A.R.T. In the early days of WGBH's Descriptive Video Service, she described many PBS programs, as well as movies for home video. As the Education Support Specialist for WFT, Cori provides individualized attention to help all students, especially those on the autism spectrum, have the best experience possible in WFT's classes. She also creates "social stories" for WFT. These guides help visitors on the autism spectrum and their families prepare for visiting the theatre and seeing a show.

Iliana Garcia (*Vanessa*) is thrilled to make her WFT (and Boston) debut! A recent graduate of Western Carolina University, where she earned a BFA in Musical Theatre, she was last seen as Sally in Flat Rock Playhouse's *...Charlie Brown*. Other FRP credits include *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Annie* (Annie u/s), *9 to 5*, and *The Music Man* (Marian u/s). Other favorite regional productions and roles include *In the Heights* (Nina), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Chava), *Hot Mikado* (Yum-Yum), *Pop!* (Valerie), and *Resident Alien* (Sveta). Much love to her wildly supportive family, who made her incredible life possible in the US. Much love and thanks to TPG! ¡No pare, sigue, sigue! www.ilianagarcia.net, @ilianamgarcia

Meredith Gosselin (*Assistant Director*) is thrilled to be back at WFT. She is expanding her artistic scope from acting to include directing and adapting existing works for the stage. Meredith has performed in and around Boston with such companies as Greater Boston Stage Company, The Hanover Theatre, Whistler in the Dark, Company One, and MoonBox. She holds a BFA from BoCo and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. She lives in Weymouth with her husband, actor Cameron Gosselin, and their St. Bernard, Sadie. All the gratitude in the world to WFT and to Rachel for the opportunity to grow and learn.

Diego Guevara (*Sonny*) is elated to be joining the company of *In the Heights*! Favorite credits include Melchior Gabor in *Spring Awakening*, *West Side Story* at NSMT, and *Freak in columbinus*. Diego will next be seen on the China tour of *Legally Blonde: the Musical*! Thanks to his family and friends for the unbelievable support! Los amo con todo el alma! Instagram: @diego.guev

Marshall Joun (*Ensemble*) is happy to return to WFT after appearing in *Akeelah* and *the Bee* and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Credits with Boston Children's Theatre include *Cabaret*, *Caps for Sale*, *...Millie*, *Fame*, and *The Velveteen Rabbit*. He has also appeared in multiple shows with Arlington Children's Theatre. Marshall is a senior in high school and just finished a summer college program at Syracuse University. He sends love to his family, his friends, and his 'Cuse fam.

Ruth Celia Kahn (*Secondary Audio Describer*) is always thrilled to be describing sets and costumes here at WFT! A resident of Boston, Ruth has been audio-describing plays, musicals, and operas for more than ten years. Favorite Boston productions include *Merrily We Roll Along* (Huntington), *Billy Elliot* and many other works (WFT), *The Urban Nutcracker* (Ballet Rox), and *The Barber of Seville* (Boston Lyric Opera). At The Weston Playhouse in Vermont, she has done primary and secondary description for *The Music Man*, *Mamma Mia*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Les Misérables*, and *Hairspray*. When not audio describing, Ruth can be found singing, formatting captions for live performances, and strolling in the Arboretum. She is also a Board-Certified Music Therapist and Co-Chair of the Patient Family Advisory Council at Boston Medical Center.

Diego Klock-Perez (*Usvavi*) is making his WFT debut. Special thanks to Santana, Lisa, The Price Group, New World School of the Arts, BoCo, French Woods, Miami Children's Theater, but – most of all – Better Families Through Tae Kwon Do. He made his theatrical debut in *Medieval Madness*, a play produced by the third grade acting class. Never too early, never too late! Credits include *Car Talk: The Musical!!!* (Underground Railway) and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *In the Heights* (SpeakEasy). Dedicated to Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, and his family members. Family is not strictly defined by blood and last names. Family is the circle of strength, created and bound by love.

Matthew T. Lazure (*Props Designer*) has designed sets for New Rep (*Blackberry Winter*, *The Little Prince*); Stoneham; Gloucester Stage; KidStage; and the Gold Dust Orphans, among others. His designs for WFT include *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Alice*, *Mountain...Moon*, *Pippi Longstocking*, *Oliver!*, and *The Secret Garden* (Elliot Norton nomination). Matthew's costume designs have been seen on the WFT stage most recently in *The Hobbit*. A Mass College of Art graduate, he shows his fine art in Boston, Provincetown, and online at matthewlazure.com.

Jenna McFarland Lord (*Scenic Designer*) is excited to be working with WFT for the first time. Area credits include *Men on Boats*, *Grand Concourse*, *Bootycandy*, *Big Fish*, *The Color Purple*, *In the Heights*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (IRNE nomination for Best Set Design), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Theatre District*, and *Moonlight Room* (SpeakEasy); *Something's Afoot* and *Distant Music* (both IRNE nominations for Best Set Design), *Steel Magnolias*, *The Porch*, *Guys on Ice*, and *The Mousetrap* (Addison Award for Best Set Design) (Stoneham);

Paradise and *The Convert* (Norton Award for Best Production 2016) (Central Square); *Collected Stories* and *Cherry Docs* (both IRNE nominations for Best Set Design) (New Rep); *Warrior Class*, *Groundswell*, and *November* (Lyric Stage); and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Macbeth* (Actors' Shakespeare Project). Jenna was Resident Set Designer for Gloucester Stage from 2002-2013; her many credits there include *Out of the Mouths of Babes*, *Gloucester Blue*, *New Electric Ballroom*, *North Shore Fish*, *Spring Awakening*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *The Widow's Blind Date*, *Dinner with Friends*, *LifeX3*, *Spinning into Butter*, and *The Loman Family Picnic*. Her work has been seen Off-Broadway in *The Secret of Mme. Bonnard's Bath* (NY Playwrights' Lab) and *Man in Snow* (La Mama). Jenna received her theatre training at Emerson College. She is currently the set design teacher at Boston Arts Academy.

AJ Manuel Lucero (*Ensemble*, *u/s Piragua Guy*, *Sonny*) is so happy to return to the WFT stage in a show that is incredibly special to his identity. Last seen here in *Billy Elliot*, his regional credits include *Joseph...Dreamcoat* and *42nd Street* (Reagle) and *Sweet Charity* and *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Sunset Playhouse). A student at BoCo, AJ hails from Milwaukee, WI, where he has performed in dozens of productions throughout the southeastern-Wisconsin area. Actuando en memoria de Manuel, Clay, y Virginia - la gente que vivió las historias contadas aquí esta noche. Mi corazón late por causa de ellos. @ajmanuelucero

Zachary D. McConnell (*Ensemble*) is an MFA student in Musical Theatre at BoCo. New to Boston theatre, he is eager to meet and work with all of the amazing talent this city has to offer. Notable roles include Dr. Frank-N-Furter in Miller Auditorium's *The Rocky Horror Show*; Four-Eyed Moe in *Five Guys Named Moe* at the Mason Street Warehouse, Michigan; and Mitch Mahoney in *Akeelah and the Bee* and Richie in *A Chorus Line*, both at the Wagon Wheel. Zachary received his BFA in Musical Theatre Performance from Western Michigan University, where he played such roles as Angel in *RENT* and Mr. Magix in *My One and Only*. Thanks to his supportive and loving parents, Tammra and Justin, and to his partner Adam, best muse and loving companion.

Franklin Meissner, Jr. (*Lighting Designer*) is pleased to return to his favorite Family after designing the lighting for *Charlotte's Web*, *Billy Elliot*, *Mary Poppins* (Norton Award), *Oliver!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, and *The Secret Garden*. He recently designed the lighting for *The Snow Queen* (IRNE Award) at New Rep where he has designed 21 other productions, including *Sweeney Todd* and *Moby Dick* (both IRNE Award winners). His work has been seen at the Lyric Stage (*Sweeney Todd*, IRNE Award) and Poets' Theatre (World Premiere, *Albatross*, Norton Award – Outstanding Production). Frank's work has been seen Off- and Off-Off Broadway in NYC, at Boston Playwrights' (IRNE Award), BoCo, Northeastern, SpeakEasy, Stoneham (IRNE nomination), Central Square, NSMT, South Shore Music Circus, Sanders Theatre, various corporate events and colleges around the state, and at 40 Carnegie Hall performances. www.FranklinMeissner.com. For Abby.

Selena Mercado (*Ensemble*, *u/s Nina*, *Vanessa*) is a rising senior at BoCo. Her most recent regional credits include *The Chaperone* in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Mona in Chicago*, and *Anita in West Side Story* at Summer Rep. Selena is thrilled to be telling this wonderful story with this wonderful cast. Break a leg everyone!

Malik Mitchell (*Ensemble*) is a rising junior and theatre major at Boston Arts Academy. He is a member of NIA Dance Troupe - one of the Origination Cultural Arts Center's professional youth dance companies. He was a featured actor and dancer in the group's productions of *Our Story: Celebrating the African American Experience* through *Spoken Word*, *Music & Dance* and *Taftuta! A Young Child's Search for the True Meaning of Kwanzaa*. His most recent role was as the Scarecrow in Boston Arts Academy's *The Wiz*. Malik is looking forward to pursuing a career in musical theatre, standard theatre, and film. He is excited to be part of this cast.

Luis Negrón (Kevin) happily returns to WFT after having performed in *The Miracle Worker*, *Saint Joan*, and *Sara Crews: A Little Princess*. He was last seen in *Sonia Flew* at Wellesley Summer Theatre. Luis has performed in theatre, musical theatre, film, commercials, and voiceovers. Over the past dozen years, he has worked with such area companies as the Huntington, Lyric Stage, SpeakEasy, New Rep, Merrimack Rep, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, and Zeitgeist Stage, and he has appeared at Brandeis and Hibernian Hall. Member of Actors' Equity Association.

Yewande O. Odetoyinbo (Daniela, u/s Camila, Abuela Claudia) is a native of Detroit, MI. She is a proud graduate of Howard University, where she earned a BFA in Musical Theatre and became a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. Favorite performances include roles in *Fannie Lou* at Carnegie Hall, the national tour of Bob Marley's *Three Little Birds* with Adventure Theatre, and Roz in *Trav'lin': The 1930s Harlem Musical* at Seven Angels in Waterbury, CT. She was most recently seen as Queenie in *Show Boat* at the Reagle. It is her lifelong dream not only to perform and teach theatre to inner city youth, but also to open up a performing arts school in Nigeria. Yewande is currently pursuing an MFA in Musical Theatre Performance at BoCo. She thanks the Lord for His many blessings and her family and friends for their love and support. Thanks also to Rachel, Dan, and WFT for this wonderful opportunity. Ase!

Katrina Z. Pavao (Ensemble) is making her WFT debut. Her credits include Wendla in *Spring Awakening*, *Ui*, and *Party Time* (Wilbury); Roxanne in *Cyrano*, Hero/Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Mutiny); *Translations* (Theatre Collaborative); and many productions at Providence College. Katrina is pursuing an MFA in Musical Theatre at BoCo. She worked as a Teaching Artist and Choreographer for Trinity Rep, Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre, and the Wilbury in RI. She is also founding member and the resident choreographer of the Mutiny Theatre Project in Providence, RI. Katrina is very excited to be working with WFT and thanks her Mom, family, and friends for all of their support!

Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to join the folks at WFT for the first time. She has been stage-managing and directing in the Boston area for the last five years. She often works with Flat Earth Theatre, where her credits include *Fat Pig*, *Silent Sky* (Norton Award: Outstanding Production, Fringe Theatre), *Blinders*, and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Lesbo*. Other favorite credits include: ASM for *Journey to the West* (Nora/Underground Railway); *Return to Morality* and *Polish Joke* (Titanic); *The Winter's Tale* (Maiden Phoenix); *Echoes* (Brown Box); *Rosencrantz...* (EMACT DASH, Best Play, Longwood Players); and *Turn of the Screw* (Simple Machine). Elizabeth was nominated for Best Stage Management by Arts Impulse in 2016 and by EMACT in 2014. She was the Artistic Director for the Calliope Project and a regular Assistant Director with Ministry of Theater. She studied English and Theatre at Boston University.

Dan Rodriguez (Music Director) is happy to join the team at WFT for *In the Heights*. Recent credits include work with the Lyric Stage (*Gypsy*), Reagle (42nd Street, *Show Boat*, *Joseph...*), Huntington (*Sunday in the Park...*, *A Little Night Music*), A.R.T. (*The Lily's Revenge*, *Pippin*, and *The Blue Flower*), Moonbox (*Barnum*, *The Wild Party*, and *The Musical of Musicals*), and many other area theatres, as well as collaborations with BoCo, Emerson College, and other schools. Dan's work has earned him four IRNE Awards for Best Music Direction.

Laura Lebrón Rojas (Nina), born in the Dominican Republic, graduated from the Musical Theatre program at NY Film Academy and the acting program at William Esper Acting Studio. Her credits in the DR include Sharpay Evans in *High School Musical on Stage!*, Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tammy in *Hairspray*, Ensemble in *The Miracle of Fatima*, Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Sylvia in *The Merry Widow*, Nina Rosario in *In the*

Heights, Vanda in *Venus in Fur*, and Una in *Blackbird*. Laura's US credits include Ensemble in *The Temple of the Souls*, Lisa in *Goldilocks*, Vanessa in *In the Heights* (NJ), and Nina Rosario in the US premiere of the Spanish version of *In the Heights* in Washington, DC. TV/Film credits include *Latin American Idol*, *Connect Cuba*, *The Idiot*, *A Brief Love Story*, and *Test Taking*. Laura is a two-time nominee for Best Actress in the Dominican Soberano Awards (2015 and 2017).

Ryoko Seta (Ensemble) is a native of Yokohama, Japan. An accomplished singer, actor, and dancer, she received a scholarship award from the London Royal Ballet School when she was 13 years old and still stands as the youngest recipient of the award. Ryoko also has a master license for Japanese Traditional Dance (Natori). Her first professional role in a US production was as an airport desk agent in Gus Van Sant's film *Sea of Trees*. She is a graduate of BoCo with a BA in Music Business and Management. She has been a proud member of SAG-AFTRA since 2014. Ryoko truly appreciates the love and support of her family and friends. Ryokoseta.com

Lance-Patrick Strickland (Ensemble) is a graduate of Baltimore School for the Arts. He is currently studying Musical Theatre (Class of 2018) at BoCo. While attending the Conservatory he has had the privilege of working on *Wiley and the Hairy Man*. His most recent credits include Asagai in *A Raisin in the Sun* and Indio in *West Side Story*. Lance-Patrick is thrilled to be making his WFT debut in *In the Heights*. Thanks to BoCo faculty, and huge thanks to his friends and family for their love and constant support.

Kira Troilo (Carla) is so excited to make her WFT debut in one of her favorite shows! Recent credits include *Gypsy* and *Camelot* (Lyric Stage), *Sister Act* (NextDoor), *Hairspray* (Palace), *The Color Purple* (SpeakEasy), *The Wiz* (Fiddlehead), and *A Chorus Line* (Emerson Umbrella). Recent choreography credits include *The Little Mermaid* (IRNE nomination), *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Aida* (Fiddlehead), *Evita*, *Chicago*, and *How to Succeed...* (Weston Drama Workshop). She is also a founding board member of the Regatta Players in Central Mass. Kira graduated with a BFA from Emerson College. Love to Jared, Mom, and Dad.

Alexa Wang (Ensemble) is delighted to return to WFT after spending her summer touring with Circus Smirkus as dance captain and clown. She was seen last spring in Moonbox's *Barnum* and in Wellesley Players' *Shrek the Musical*. Other favorite roles include Clarice (Clara) in the *Urban Nutcracker* (Tony Williams Dance Center), Interpreter in *Mountain...Moon* (WFT), and 10-year-old Tommy in *The Who's Tommy* (Footlight Club). Alexa is a sophomore at Boston Latin School and studies dance with Tony Williams. Huge thanks to Rachel for mentoring and support, and love to her family.

Kelton Washington (Ensemble, u/s Benny) is pleased to make his WFT debut. Regional credits include *Show Boat* (Joe u/s, Ensemble) and *Les Misérables* (Ensemble) at Reagle, *Ragtime* (Ensemble) at Ogunquit, and *The Color Purple* (Ensemble) SpeakEasy. Kelton is a proud graduate of BoCo (MFA) and Berklee College of Music (BM). Special thanks to Rachel for believing in him, to the wonderful folks at WFT for this remarkable opportunity, and to his wife, Mom and Dad, family, and friends!

Karina Wen (Female Swing) is very excited to be back at WFT after performing here in *Pinocchio* in 2015. She is currently a sophomore at Brandeis University, where she most recently appeared in *Woyzeck* and will be playing Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in December. Other recent credits include *Urinetown* (Longwood Players), *A Chorus Line* (Priscilla Beach Theatre), and *Hamlet* (Powerhouse). Karina is thrilled to be working with this amazing team on one of her favorite musicals!

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Emily White (*Dramaturg*) is thrilled to be working on this production with WFT. This is her third time dramaturging with director Rachel Bertone, after *The Wild Party* (2017 IRNE: Best Musical – Fringe Size Theatre) and *Barnum* with Moonbox. Based in NYC, Emily has worked as an Associate Dramaturg at the Public Theater and as production dramaturg for *The Roaring Girl* at Theater Row. Performance credits include *Arcadia* (Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre), *Punk Rock* (Zeitgeist), *Playhouse Creatures* (Maiden Phoenix), and Playwrights' Platform 2014, 2015, 2016 (Boston Playwrights'). She received an LMDA/KCACTF Student Dramaturgy Regional Award and ATHE/KCACTF Program Note Regional Award for her work as production dramaturg on Middletown (Emerson Stage). Emily holds a BA in Theatre Studies: Acting and Dramaturgy degree from Emerson College.

Andrew Duncan Will (*Sound Design*) is excited to be working with WFT for the first time! Recent local designs include productions for Lyric Stage, Boston Public Works, Stoneham, Fresh Ink, Hasty Pudding, SpeakEasy, Bad Habit, Flotsam, Gloucester Stage, Puppet Showplace, Company One, New Rep, Common-wealth Shakespeare, Poets' Theatre, and A.R.T. Institute. Andrew received an MFA in Sound Design from Boston University, a BA in Theatre from Colby College, and an AS in Audio Production from the NE Institute of Art. He is on staff at Emerson College and Harvard University.

Caroline Workman (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be returning to WFT for her 8th production! Broadway: *Billy Elliot*. Favorite regional credits include *Mountain...Moon* (Cape Cod Theatre Company, WFT) and *Billy Elliot*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Oliver!* (WFT). Thanks to Rachel, Dan, Nick, Nicky, and love to her family.

Johanna Carlisle Zepeda (*Abuela Claudia*) is thrilled to be making her debut at WFT. She is also excited to be appearing in this role again having last played Abuela Claudia at Phoenix Theatre in Arizona. Regional credits include: Madame Thernardier (*Les Misérables*), Mayor/Ma (*The Toxic Avenger*), Truvy (*Steel Magnolias*), Katie Nana/Mrs. Correy/Miss Andrew (*Mary Poppins*), Martha (*White Christmas*), Mazeppa (*Gypsy*), Rev. Mother (*Nunsense 2*), Effy (*Spitfire Grill*), Saraghina (*Nine*), Carmen Bernstein (*Curtains*), Mrs. Paroo (*The Music Man*), Mary (*The Whale*), Mrs. Johnstone (*Blood Brothers*), Eddie/Dr. Scott (*The Rocky Horror Show*), and Narrator (*Joseph...Dreamcoat*). Johanna holds a BA in Vocal Performance from Cornell College. Proud mom of actor Maxximilian Carlisle-King. Mad love to Maxx and Paul...without you her world would not be as bright nor as adventurous.

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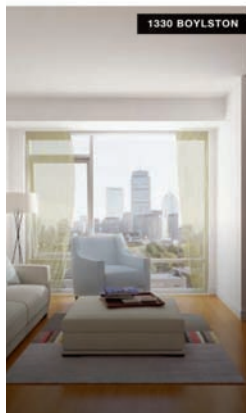
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