

January 27 - February 26, 2017











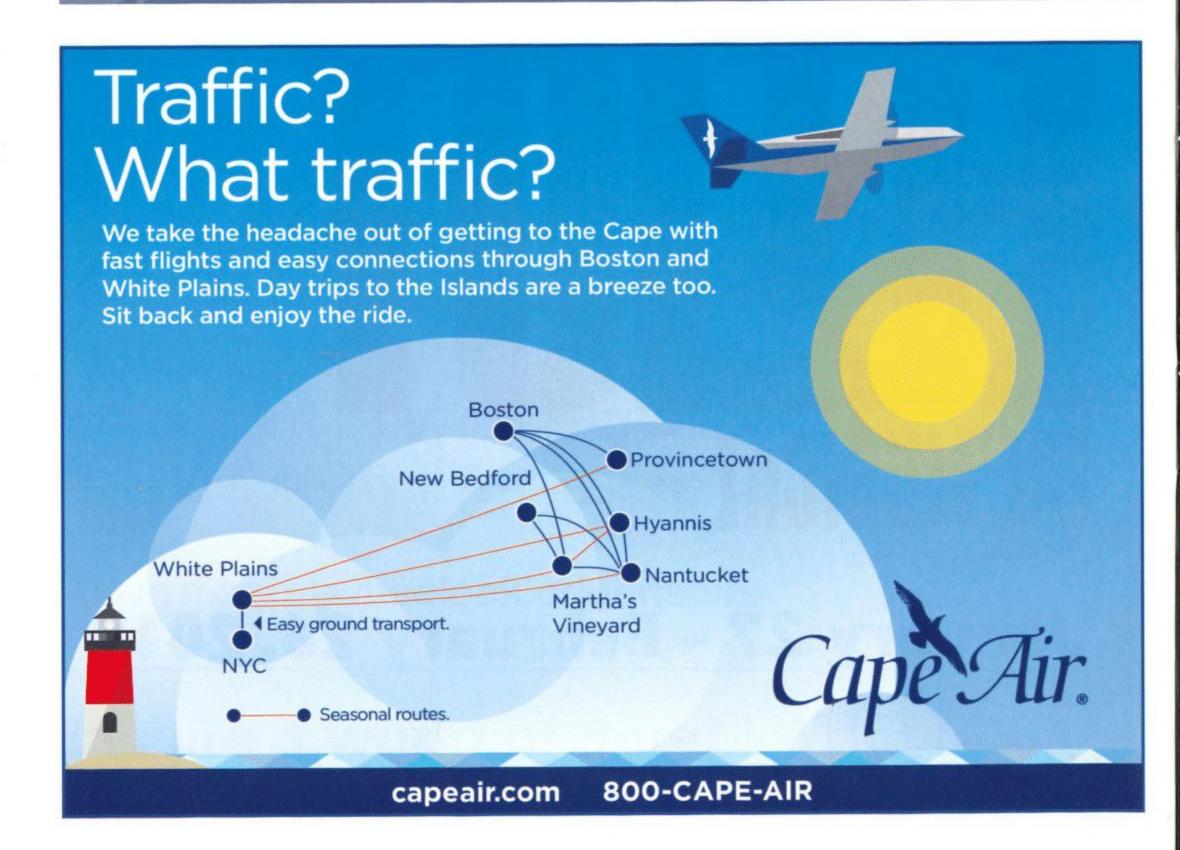




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January/February 2017

Dear Wheelock Family Theatregoers,

WFT proudly presents the second production of our 2016-2017 season, *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Like *Akeelah and the Bee*, and our upcoming play *Charlotte's Web*, *Billy Elliot* is the inspirational story of a young person who overcomes obstacles to reach his dreams. Set in northern England during the miners' strike of the 1980s, the musical's messages of hope, determination, and BEing yourself are relevant to current times.

Paralleling Billy's fight for the right to dance and the miners' fight for the right to work, WFT's founders—Andrea Genser, Anthony Hancock, Susan Kosoff, and Jane Staab—envisioned a place where theatre artists could live out their dreams, a theatre which might have its home at Wheelock College. Founded in 1981, WFT shares the College's mission of improving the lives of children and families. WFT is an Actors' Equity Association Theatre, and professional actors share the stage with children and youth, performing together for audiences of long-time theatregoers and people who are seeing a live performance for the very first time. With shows that appeal to all generations and our tradition of non-traditional casting, audience members can see themselves reflected on stage. Over half of our outstanding cast of 40 is under the age of 18.

We are honored that Susan Kosoff, Wheelock College professor emerita, playwright, and one of the Theatre's co-founders, is at the helm of this production. Watching Susan direct, empower her cast, creative team, and crew to do their best work, and put her big heart and brilliant mind into every detail has been a gift. Susan dedicates this production of *Billy Elliot* to everyone whose lives have been saved by the arts. On behalf of Team Billy, thank you—and solidarity forever!

Linda Chin, Producing Artistic Director

and the staff of WFT: Jamie Aznive, Kay Arden Elliott, Matthew Lazure, Marjorie Lusignan, Peyton Pugmire, Maryanne Serignese, Zoë Sundra, Nick Vargas, James Williston, Craig A. Zemsky



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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.

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Eric Hermanson, Attorney, White & Williams LLP, Boston

Steven M. Key, Esq., Attorney, Law Office of Steven M. Key, Boston

Susan Kosoff, Co-Founder, Wheelock Family Theatre

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

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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:

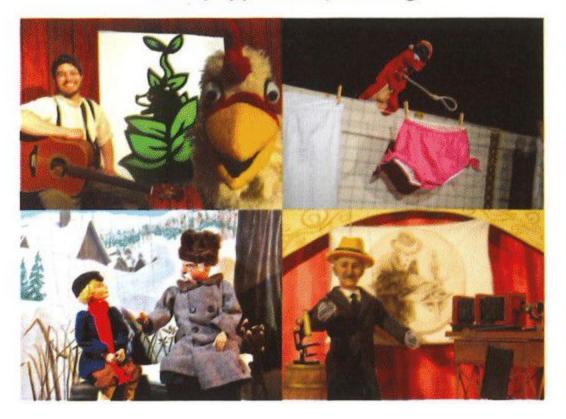
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Jon Goldberg

CHOREOGRAPHER Laurel Conrad

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Matthew T. Lazure

T. Lazure Franklin Meissner, Jr.

ICTION SOUND DESIGNER

COSTUME DESIGNER
Melissa Miller

PROPS DESIGNER

Marjorie Lusignan

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Clive Grainger* SOUND DESIGNER
Eric Norris

LIGHTING DESIGNER

SIGN PERFORMERS

Luke Baer, Alvin Haas,

Ali Schmalenberger

AUDIO DESCRIBERS

Cori Couture

Ruth Celia Kahn

THE CAST

Billy Seth Judice

Mrs. Wilkinson Aimee Doherty*

Dad Neil Gustafson*

Grandma Cheryl D. Singleton*

Tony Jared Troilo*

George John Davin*

Michael Shane Boucher

Debbie Lily Ramras

Small Boy Ben Choi-Harris

Big Davey Peter S. Adams*

Lesley/Woman 3/Ensemble Caroline Workman*

Scab/Posh Dad/Ensemble Byron Darden*

Dead Mum/Woman 1/Ensemble Robin Long*

Mr. Braithwaite/Ensemble Gary Thomas Ng*

Older Billy Will Christmann

Tall Boy/Posh Boy/Ensemble Maxwell Seelig

Clipboard Woman/Woman 2/Ensemble Gigi Watson

Mr. Wilkinson/Ensemble Mark Soucy

Scottish Dancer/Ensemble Brad Foster Reinking

ENSEMBLE: Gian Raffaele DiCostanzo, Mark Dreher, AJ Manuel Lucero, Ben Salus, Edward Simon

BALLET GIRLS: Phoebe Anthony (Karen Davidson), Tessa Bigelow (Keeley Gibson), Aimée Coleman (Karen Davidson), Isabelle Cotney (Susan Parks), Elizabeth Crawford (Swing), Joey Gold (Tracey Atkinson), Natalie Hall (Margaret Gormley), Margaret McFadden (Katherine Grainger, Swing), Anabel Moda (Tina Harmer, Swing), Addison Oken (Alison Summers), Lily Park (Angela Robson), Haven Pereira (Sharon Percy), Emi Elizabeth Rodes (Angela Robson), Madi Shaer (Julie Hope), Zoë Stewart (Katherine Grainger, Swing), Charlotte B. Um (Tina Harmer)

UNDERSTUDIES: Shane Boucher for Billy, Elizabeth Crawford for Debbie, AJ Manuel Lucero for Older Billy, Ben Salus for Mr. Braithwaite and Tony, Maxwell Seelig for Michael, Gigi Watson for Mrs. Wilkinson

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.

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com



MUSICAL PROGRAM

ACT ONE

The Stars Look Down	Full Company
Shine	Mrs. Wilkinson, Ballet Girls, Billy
Grandma's Song	Grandma, Men's Ensemble
Solidarity	Full Company
Expressing Yourself	Billy, Michael, Ensemble
The Letter	Billy, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mum
We Were Born to Boogie	Billy, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Braithwaite
Angry Dance	Billy, Men's Ensemble

ACT TWO

(Six Months Later)

Merry Christmas, Maggie Thatcher	Full Company
Deep Into the Ground	Dad, Full Company
He Could Be a Star	Dad, Tony, Ensemble
Electricity	Billy
Once We Were Kings	Full Company
The Letter (Reprise)	Billy, Mum
Finale	

ORCHESTRA

Jon Goldberg, Keyboard/Conductor

Jonathan Mastro, Keyboard 2 (Lianne Goodwin, alternate)

Kenji Kikuchi, Jeri Sykes, Reeds (Jim Repa, Lou Toth, Heather Katz-Cote, Jeff Leonard, alternates)

Bobby Gallegos, Trumpet (Paul Perfetti, alternate) Megan Riccio, Horn (Justin Stanley, alternate)

Erik Puslys, Guitar Kate Foss, Bass (Nick Francese, alternate) Josh Goldman, Drums

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.





*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.



COUNCIL by a grant from the

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.



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

Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

Wheelock Family Theatre

STAFF

Producing Artistic Director

Director of Development & Communications

Director of Education, Outreach, & Community Engagement

Associate Artistic Director & Education Director

Audience Services Manager

Special Projects

Production Manager & Master Electrician

Technical Director

Resident Designer

Props Mistress & Crafts Director

Wardrobe Shop Manager & Costumer

Linda Chin

Maryanne Serignese

Peyton Pugmire

Nick Vargas

Jamie Aznive

Kay Arden Elliott

Craig A. Zemsky

James Williston

Matthew T. Lazure

Marjorie Lusignan

Zoë Sundra

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Stage Manager

Assistant to the Director

Acting Coach

Choreographic Consultant

Dance Captains

Dialects Coach

Audience Engagement Coordinator

Director of Artistic Sign Language

Audio Describers

Captioning

Lisa Wondolowski*

Priscilla Fales

Jane Staab

Rachel Bertone Gigi Watson, Caroline Workman

Suzanne Reese Mills

Marianne Adams

Larry Stephen

Cori Coture, Ruth Celia Kahn

Jamie Aznive, coordinator

Ruth Celia Kahn, compositor Sheelagh Cook, Evan Kersey,

Elizabeth King, Cong Minh Nguyen,

Ngoc Dung Tran

Scenic Painters & Carpenters

Robert Dew, Jeff Gardiner, Daniel Stone, Jerry Wheelock

Electricians

Kevin Fulton, Aurelia Lyman,

Evelyn Swift Shuker, Yasmin Yacoby

EDUCATION PROGRAM FACULTY

Marianne Adams, Katherine Akerley, Esme Allen, Christy Betit, Brynnalee Blackmar, Danny Bolton, Cori Couture, Christine Cuddy, Laura DeGiacomo, Andrea Doane, Brian Evans, Donna Folan, Ellie Friedland, Shannon Lee Jones, Ayisha Knight-Shaw, Jen Alison Lewis, Marjorie Lusignan, Dev Luthra, Val Madden, Angie Jepson Marks, Kortney Adams Martin, Carla Martinez, Lizzie Milanovich, Eva Murray, Grace Napier, John O'Neil, Jacqui Parker, Beth Peters, Sophie Rich, Samantha Richert, M. Lynda Robinson, Brittany Rolfs, Matthew Romero, Rebecca Schneebaum, Fran Weinberg, Christopher Webb, Jessica Webb, Alan White

CREWS, WORK/STUDY STUDENTS, AND INTERNS

Christina Bebe, Iva Briggs, Halle Burns, Carmella Campbell, Regan Docca, Erin Forgay, Mary Iula, Carina Lawrence, Carolyn Lopez, Julia Lorello, Kaylee Maher, Maha Mian, Carishmar Moore, Laura Morgan, Anika Nayak, Lauren Ofshay, Eliu Olmo, Rachel Otfinoski, Davis (DJ) Piper, Kiran Raza, Anthony Romero, Jessica Romero, Jetta Smith, Shanelle Tayler, Kathryn VanSteenbergen, Isabella Vitti, Sierra White

SPECIAL THANKS

Joanne Baez; Charles G. Baldwin; Danny Bolton; Capone Foods; Lindsay Clinton; Glenn Cook; Megan Doerr; Sanjeev Joshi; Danielle Lusignan; Kimberly Lusignan; Wendy Ramaci; Stephen Reinstein; Residence Inn Boston Back Bay Fenway; Roffi Salon and Day Spa; Frank Romero and members of the Wheelock College Facilities staff; Nancy Viall Shoemaker; Jerry Wheelock; Tom Workman; Ezra and Jodi Leduc Zemsky

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





Peter S. Adams (Big Davey) is making his debut at WFT. He just came off his third year as The Ghost of Christmas Present in A Christmas Carol at North Shore Music Theatre where he started his professional career in 1989. In addition, he has been working on a new musical in Florida called Muscle Bears - The Musical. He toured Canada and the US in the role of Father in the National Tour of Ragtime in 2001 - 2002 directed by Stafford Arima. Peter received an IRNE Nomination for Best Actor in a Musical for Sweeney Todd (title role), The Engineer in Miss Saigon, and Juan Peron in Evita. Other roles include Captain Hook in Peter Pan and Old Deuteronomy in Cats at Theatre By The Sea. Peter worked on the feature film Super Troopers 2 last summer, which will be released this year.

Phoebe Anthony (Karen Davidson), a 5th grader, is thrilled to be making her WFT debut! Recent roles: Snow Child in Carousel (Reagle), Anna in The King and I and Eliza in My Fair Lady (Newton Youth Players). She sings with Wellesley Symphony and performs at Artbarn. Phoebe loves singing and choreographing her own dance pieces with friends at school talent shows. Thanks to WFT for the amazing opportunity!

Rachel Bertone (Choreographic Consultant) has credits that include: Carousel (Reagle Music Theatre), The Wild Party, Musical of Musicals—IRNE nominations: Best Musical, Direction, Choreography; Elliot Norton Nomination: Most Outstanding Musical (Moonbox), Creative License (FringeNYC), Joseph (Turtle Lane). Choreography: Guys and Dolls, My Fair Lady, South Pacific (Reagle), Big River, Animal Crackers (Lyric Stage), West Side Story (Turtle Lane), Billy Elliot (Ocean State Theatre). Upcoming: Directing/Choreographing Barnum (Moonbox). Faculty member: The Boston Conservatory, A.R.T. Institute at Harvard University, and Emerson College.

Tessa Bigelow (Keeley Gibson) is a 7th grader at Doherty Middle School in Andover. She loves being part of this show and the WFT family. Tessa enjoys learning ballet, tap, jazz, and lyric at The Center for Performing Arts in North Andover. Other favorite credits include Lés Miserables (NSMT) and Billy Elliot and A Christmas Carol at the Palace Theater in Manchester, NH. Lots of love to her mum, dad, and sisters.

Shane Boucher (Michael, Billy u/s) is thrilled to make his WFT debut reprising the role of Michael (Palace Theatre, Manchester, NH) and u/s Billy. He studies ballet, tap, modern and voice. Shane had the pleasure of performing in NYC and Maine with Retter Entertainment this past year. He performs with The Palace Theatre's Teen Company and spends his summers at the New London Barn Playhouse. Special thanks to Linda Chin and the creative team at WFT! To mom "Love you forever."

Ben Choi-Harris (Small Boy) is delighted to return to WFT, where he previously performed in Akeelah and the Bee, A Year with Frog and Toad, and Trumpet of the Swan. Other credits include the Candy Man in Willy Wonka, Mr. Bundles in Annie (Creative Arts), and Sketch in Hairspray (Acting Out). Ben enjoys WFT classes and is grateful to his fantastic instructors. He is thrilled to have this opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew.

Will Christmann (Older Billy) is ecstatic to be in his 7th production with WFT! He was last seen in Mary Poppins (WFT), Richard III (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), and All for One with the Colonial Radio Theatre. Will is a senior at Arlington High School and is in his fifth year of training with the Cambridge Youth Dance Program. A big thanks to his family, the cast and crew of Billy Elliot, and all his teachers at the CYDP.

Aimée Coleman (Karen Davidson) is excited to be performing with WFT as a Ballet Girl in Billy Elliot. Aimée played Baby Bird/Mole in WFT's A Year with Frog and Toad. Other performances include: BCT's Into the Woods, Jr. and Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr. (Florida, Priscilla Girl). Aimée studies dance at the BBS and has performed in the Boston Ballet Nutcracker. She is also a cellist/pianist who has performed in musical theatre pits and NEC's Jordan Hall. Aimée thanks her parents for supporting her love for the performing arts.

Laurel Conrad (Choreographer) is honored to be returning to WFT for Billy Elliot The Musical. Her past work here has earned her IRNE Awards for Best Choreography for Seussical and Will Rogers Follies as well as multiple awards and nominations for her choreography for Hairspray! She would like to thank Rachel, Gigi and Caroline for their dedication and hard work getting the choreography in shape. Love to Jane and Sue for bringing her back in for this project and to Linda for her support. Also, much love to Molly, Nyssa, and the love of her life, Mario, for their support and encouragement.

Isabelle Cotney (Susan Parks) is very excited to be back on the Wheelock stage where she was previously seen in Oliver and The Wizard of Oz. Since then, Isabelle has continued to perform in musical theatre and contemporary dance in the Boston area. As a Junior at Brookline High School, Isabelle is also performing in Grease as Frenchie. In her spare time she enjoys filming videos for her singing account on Instagram.

Cori Couture (*Primary Audio Describer*) has described shows for WFT, the Huntington, Open Door Theater, Liars and Believers, and Harvard Business School. At WGBH's Descriptive Video Service, she described movies for home video and many PBS shows. As Education Support Specialist for WFT, Cori helps to make sure that all students have a great experience in our classes. She also creates "social stories" for WFT to help visitors on the autism spectrum prepare for a trip to the theatre.

Elizabeth Crawford (Swing, Debbie u/s) is a 7th grader at Fay School in Southborough. She is excited to be making her WFT debut! Credits include *Tuck Everlasting* (Original Broadway Cast), Irving Berlin's White Christmas (National Tour '14,'15), and Billy Elliot (NSMT). Many thanks to Kim Pedell at Zoom Talent Management, Barry Kolker at Carson Kolker Agency, Doug Jabara and Eva Kendrick. Love to Mom, Dad, Robert, Benjamin, Charlotte and Katherine.

Byron Darden (Posh Dad, Scab, Ensemble) is honored to return for his fifth production at WFT where he launched his professional career. Byron's past performances include Will Rogers Follies (Wiley Post/Sextet), Hello, Dolly! (Barnaby Tucker), Once Upon a Mattress (Prince Dauntless), and Fiddler on the Roof (Fyedka). A former championship-level figure skater and coach, Byron now coaches corporate executives on performance and delivers keynote addresses on the subject of leadership presence. He lives in New York.

John Davin (George) has appeared in numerous productions at WFT. One of his most memorable roles here was Templeton, the rat, in Charlotte's Web. He is delighted to be playing a primate.

Gian Raffaele DiCostanzo (Ensemble) is excited to make his WFT debut with Billy Elliot! Gian is a recent graduate of Emerson College with a B.F.A. in Theatre & Performance. Regional credits include Aladdin (Aladdin), Shrek the Musical (Donkey), and The Wizard of Oz (Tin Man) with The Palace Theatre, Night the Music Died (Ritchie Valens) with Texas Family Musicals, and Buddy (Ritchie Valens) with The Stadium Theatre. Gian is also a voice actor and lighting designer. Thanks to his family for their constant support and to WFT for this opportunity.

Twitter/Instagram: gi_raffaele. www.gianraffaeledicostanzo.com.

Aimee Doherty (Mrs. Wilkinson) is excited to return to WFT having appeared in Hairspray, Annie, Honkl, and Phantom Tollbooth. Recent credits: Sunday in the Park with George and A Little Night Music (Huntington Theatre), Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play (Lyric Stage). Aimee received Elliot Norton Awards for playing Velma in Hairspray (WFT), the Witch in Into the Woods, Claire in On the Town (Lyric Stage), and Eleanor in Far From Heaven (SpeakEasy) as well as an IRNE Award for playing Luisa in Nine (SpeakEasy).

Mark Dreher (Ensemble) is VERY excited to be part of Billy Elliot as this is his WFT and professional debut. Credits include Fame the Musical and Beauty and the Beast (Encore), Legally Blonde (CC Players), and The Buddy Holly Story (Shining Lights). Mark would like to thank his mother, Wendy & Zoë, everyone at WFT, his mentors and all of his friends and family for their support.

Priscilla Fales (Asst. to the Director) is thrilled to be working with this talented group of folks. Having just retired after 47 years of teaching at the Beacon Hill Nursery School, she loves having the WFT community with whom to work on a common goal. This is Priscilla's 34th season with WFT. She will be forever grateful to Sue and Jane.

Joey Gold (Tracey Atkinson) is ready to "Shine" in her WFT debut! This is her third time embracing Tracey's quirky personality, having previously performed the role at The Ogunquit Playhouse and The Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. Other favorite roles include Tracy Turnblad in Hairspray, Ursula in The Little Mermaid, Snoopy in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, and Dragon in Shrek. Joey sends her love and thanks to both her Goldberg and Palace families. "Live your life!"

Jon Goldberg (Musical Director) has been a musical director at WFT since Cinderella in 1995 – his last production here was Oliver! in 2013. Recent area credits include Sondheim On Sondheim at the Lyric Stage, and James And The Giant Peach at Emerson College, where Jon is on the faculty for the Musical Theatre program. Jon has received four IRNE awards at the Lyric (A Little Night Music, Man Of La Mancha, Kiss Me, Kate and Grey Gardens) and has been associated with three Norton Award-winning productions – Assassins and Sunday In The Park With George (Lyric) and Pacific Overtures (NSMT). Other recent productions include Merrily We Roll Along, Guys And Dolls, Carousel and Sweeney Todd. Upcoming – Titanic, at Emerson in April.

Clive Grainger (Production Stage Manager) is very happy to be working at WFT. He studied at the RCSSD in London, subsequently working in various repertory theatres and for the BBC. In Liverpool he worked on the world premiere of Blood Brothers. Clive did not like Margaret Thatcher. He is a proud member of AEA & British Actors' Equity. Local credits include work with: Boston Baroque, BEMF, and BGMC.

Neil Gustafson (Dad) was last seen by WFT audiences in Oliver! (Mr. Brownlow). Other WFT credits include The Miracle Worker (Captain Keller), The Secret Garden (Ben Weatherstaff), Inherit the Wind (Henry Drummond), Holes (Mr. Sir), and The Prime of Miss

Jean Brodie (Teddy Lloyd). Neil continues to tour in the one-man show: Isaiah Thomas - Patriot Printer, produced by the American Antiquarian Society. Last summer he appeared as a distant, ghostly blue light in the feature film Ghostbusters. Many thanks to Jane, Sue, and Linda for this opportunity.

Natalie Hall (Margaret Gormley) is thrilled to be back at WFT, where she appeared in Trumpet of the Swan and Helen on 86th Street. Natalie attends The Rivers School and is a member of the Rivers School Conservatory. Other theatre credits include: Meet Me in St. Louis (Stoneham), Camelot (New Rep), Joseph ... (Turtle Lane), The Sound of Music (Reagle), and Annie and Oliver! (Wellesley Players). Many thanks to the cast, crew, and creative team for making this an incredible production!

Seth Judice (Billy Elliot) is thrilled to be part of this fabulous production in his dream role! He has appeared in the 2014 and 2015 National tours of *A Christmas Story* (Grover Dill/Tap Specialty), Billy Elliot the Musical (Billy) at Beck Center for the Arts and Phoenix Theater, (Michael) at Playhouse in the Square. Seth is also a member of TAProots, a pre-professional tap ensemble. Unending gratitude to God, his parents, family, and friends. To Ms. Dina Vail, Matt Shields, and Jack Beetle: thank you for the extraordinary training. "Love You Forever."

Ruth Celia Kahn (Audio Describer) is thrilled to be audio describing the sets, costumes, and characters for WFT audience members who are blind or visually impaired, and to be formatting the captions for hard-of-hearing audience members. She has participated personally and professionally in the disability community for more than 30 years. Since receiving her master's degree in Expressive Therapies from Lesley University in 2014, Ruth runs music therapy groups at VNA Assisted Living in Somerville. She also pursues her passion for assessing the need for music therapy in New Mexico's Crypto-Judaic community.

Susan Kosoff (*Director*) is a theatre director, playwright, author, and professor emerita at Wheelock College, where she teaches for the Center for International Programs and Partnerships. She is a founder of the Wheelock Family Theatre and takes pride in its reputation for ground-breaking work in nontraditional casting, arts access, and theatre education. Susan's plays have been performed on stages around the country. Her most recent publication is the two-volume set, *The Young Actor's Book of Improvisation: Dramatic Situations from Shakespeare to Spielberg*, co-written with Sandra Caruso. She serves on the boards of StageSource, Cape Cod Theatre Company, and Wheelock Family Theatre. This production of *Billy Elliot* is dedicated to everyone whose life has been saved by the arts.

Matthew T. Lazure (Set 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 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.

Robin Long (Dead Mum, Woman 1, Ensemble) is thrilled to return to WFT, where she was last seen in Alice. Other roles include Sour Kangaroo in Seussical the Musical (Marriott Theatre), Brenda in Smokey Joe's Cafe (The Skylight Opera), Florence in Why Do Fools Fall in Love (The Milwaukee Rep), Armelia in Ain't Misbehavin (Lyric Stage), Joanne in Rent (New Rep), Barbara in Shear Madness (Boston). Robin sends her love to Chris and to her greatest production, Christopher James. Proud member Actors' Equity Association.



AJ Manuel Lucero (Ensemble, Older Billy u/s) a current musical theatre performance major at The Boston Conservatory, is very excited to be making his Boston debut at WFT. Milwaukee credits include Carrie (Tommy Ross), Avenue Q (Rod), Mame (Patrick Dennis) and a few dozen ensembles throughout southeastern Wisconsin. So much love to Linda, for finding a needle in the haystack.

Marjorie Lusignan (Props Designer) is glad to return for her 9th season at WFT. After a 25-year career as a technical illustrator, she is now a visual artist who lives, gardens, and makes art in the woods of RI.

Margaret McFadden (Katherine Grainger, Swing) is thrilled to return to WFT where she was last seen in the remount of A Year with Frog and Toad (Turtle/Lady Bird/Squirrel/Mole) and Akeelah and the Bee (Mohawk Girl). She has also performed with BCT in the world premiere of Caps for Sale (Bubba), Pinkalicious the Musical (title role), and the world premiere of The Homework Machine (Kelsey). Other roles include Jean Fordham in August: Osage County (MLT) and Toffee in Zombie Prom (Walnut Hill). She has performed at Stagedoor Manor in NY and with local community theatres.

Franklin Meissner, Jr. (Lighting Designer) is pleased to return to his favorite Family after designing the lighting for 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 Repertory Theatre. where he has designed 21 other productions, including Sweeney Todd (IRNE Award) and Moby Dick (IRNE Award). His work has also been seen at The Lyric Stage Company of Boston, where he recently received an IRNE Award for his design of Sweeney Todd. He also recently designed the World Premiere of Albatross (Norton Award – Outstanding Production) for the Poets' Theatre. His work has also been seen Off and Off-Off Broadway in NYC, at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre (IRNE Award), The Boston Conservatory, Northeastern University, SpeakEasy Stage, Stoneham Theatre (IRNE nomination), Central Square Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, South Shore Music Circus, Sanders Theatre, various corporate events and colleges around the state, and at 40 Carnegie Hall performances. For Abby: "In everything you do, always be yourself." www.FranklinMeissner.com.

Melissa Miller (Costume Designer) is a visual artist who lives and works in New York City. She has designed costumes for many WFT productions over the years, including Aladdin and Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. She is thrilled to be working once again with her favorite theatre group.

Suzanne Reese Mills (Dialects Coach) received an MFA in Musical Theater from The Boston Conservatory, where she was given the opportunity to work as a Voice and Speech Assistant and Dialect Coach. Also at the Conservatory, she had the privilege of playing Odysseus in Atwood's *The Penelopiad*, Nadine in LaChiusa's *The Wild Party*, and herself in an original cabaret. Suzanne has been thrilled to work with WFT's talented cast of *Billy Elliot*.

Anabel Moda (Tina Harmer, Swing) is thrilled to be making her WFT debut in one of her favorite shows, Billy Elliot! She was last seen as Rhonda in BCT's fall production of Fancy Nancy. Some past roles include: Snow Child (Carousel) with Reagle Music Theatre, Clara (The Nutcracker) with Albany Berkshire Ballet, and Jane Banks (Mary Poppins). She will be seen next in WFT's production of Charlotte's Web. Offstage credits: Mary Throckmorton (Bristol Renaissance Faire of Wisconsin). Anabel has taken part in show choirs with BCT and NSMT, and sung the national anthem at events. Thanks to Marna, Papa, and the cast! www.anabelarts.com

Gary Thomas Ng (Mr. Braithwaite, Ensemble) is thrilled to be back at WFT, where he was last seen in Akeelah and the Bee and A Year with Frog & Toad. Other WFT credits include Seussical (Mayor), Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (Baby Julius), Peter Pan

(Smee) and Beauty and the Beast (Le Fou). Other favorite credits include Miss Saigon (Ogunquit and Foothills), Children of Eden (NSMT), Sideshow (Lyric Stage) and the Far East tour of Cole Porter's Aladdin. Gary is also a photographer whose works include production photos for Ogunquit Playhouse, Gloucester Stage, and WFT.

Eric Norris (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be back at WFT where he has worked on productions of Hairspray and Oliver! His design credits include In The Heights and Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson (SpeakEasy Stage); he was associate designer for A Christmas Carol 2016 (NSMT). For the past three years, Eric has been the production sound engineer/sound supervisor at NSMT.

Addison Oken (Alison Summers) is thrilled to make her WFT debut. Regional credits include Waitress, The Musical (Lulu, original cast) (A.R.T.) and 1984 (Child), UK Touring Company at A.R.T. Other favorite credits include NESN's Red Sox "Fan Thank You" commercial, Annie Jr. (Annie) and Wonka Kids (Veruca) at ANMS. Huge shout out to everyone at WFT for this opportunity, to StageSource, and to her family, friends, coaches and teachers!

Lily Park (Angela Robson) is excited to be in her first WFT musical. A fifth grader at the Winsor School in Boston, she loves to sing and dance, both onstage and off. Her WFT debut was last year as a cygnet in *Trumpet of the Swan*, and she is delighted to be back on the WFT stage. Lily thanks Mom, Dad, sister Hannah, and brother Sebastian for all their support!

Haven Pereira (Sharon Percy), 12, from Winthrop, MA, is excited to return to WFT after appearing in Frog and Toad. Regional - North Shore Music Theatre: Christmas Carol '15 & '16 (Belinda), Mary Poppins (Jane s/c, ensemble), Shrek (Young Fiona), Billy Elliot (Keeley) and Sound of Music (Marta); Stoneham Theatre: Miracle on 34th (Emily); Next Door Theater: Gypsy (Baby June). Haven is a competitive dancer and high honor student who often sings the National Anthem for local events. Love and thanks to all her teachers, BETM cast and crew, friends and family. XO

Lily Ramras (Debbie Wilkinson) is thrilled to be back on stage at WFT! Credits: School of Rock Broadway Promotional Tour, Kris Kringle Broadway Development, Jane Banks in Mary Poppins, Susan Waverly in White Christmas, Little Girl in Witches of Eastwick, Amaryllis in Music Man, Young Fiona u/s & ensemble in Shrek, Baby Bird in A Year with Frog and Toad, Belinda Cratchit in A Christmas Carol, Annie (title role) and The Friends of Broadway. Special thanks to WFT, StageSource and her amazing team.

Brad Foster Reinking (Scottish Dancer, Ensemble) is thrilled to return to WFT after playing a high-belting pig and a tap dancing rat in Shrek! Recent credits include Frank 'N' Furter in The Rocky Horror Show (Millbrook Playhouse), The Boys from Syracuse (Commonwealth Shakespeare), Meet Me in St. Louis (Ocean State Theatre) and A Christmas Carol (The Hanover Theatre). Brad holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory. Thanks to everyone at WFT for having him back and to his family for their constant support! bradreinking.com

Emi Elizabeth Rodes (Angela Robson) is a 5th grader at Tobin Montessori School in Cambridge. She is very excited about her WFT debut. She studied tap and jazz at Deborah Mason School of Dance and is a student at Boston Ballet School. Emi is grateful for this opportunity; she has learned so much. Thanks to her parents and brother, Marshall, for supporting her active and artful life.

Ben Salus (Miner #1, Tony u/s, Mr. Braithwaite u/s) is humbled to be part of Billy Elliot, his first show at WFT. Other recent area credits include Fiddler on the Roof, (New Rep) and Brigadoon (New London Barn Playhouse), among others. He recently graduated from Boston University's BFA Program and holds a degree in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Ben is a proud member of StageSource. www.ben-salus.com

Maxwell Seelig (Tall Boy, Posh Boy, Michael u/s) is proud to be joining WFT again after playing the Baby Bird in A Year With Frog and Toad. Some of Maxwell's other performances include Boston Childrens' Theatre's production of Flat Stanley (Stanley) and other Boston area theatre productions including, Once Upon a Mattress (Dauntless), The Little Mermaid (Sebastian), Willy Wonka (Augustus), James and The Giant Peach (James). Maxwell is in 7th grade at Milton Academy and enjoys baking when he is not in school or on the stage. He is so grateful to his family, friends, teachers, cast mates, and the production team for being so supportive both on and off stage.

Madi Shaer (Julie Hope) is thrilled to make her debut at WFT. Recent regional credits include A Christmas Carol (The Hanover Theatre) and Carousel (Reagle Music Theatre). Favorite roles include Young Cosette in Les Misérables (Riverside Theatre Works) and Brigitta in The Sound of Music (The Footlight Club). Madi is a proud cast member of The Friends of Broadway. Special thanks to Eva, Denise, Pamela, and everyone at WFT. Lots of love to family and friends and a special shout-out to Uncle B! www.madishaer.com

Edward Simon (Ensemble) is a junior in the MT program at the Boston Conservatory. He is excited to be in his first production with WFT! Recent credits include Catch Me if You Can (Carl Hanratty) and the world premiere of Alice in War (Father Soldier). He can also be seen later this year in the ensemble of The Bridges of Madison County at SpeakEasy Stage Company. Thanks always ST and LBJ.

Cheryl D. Singleton (Grandma) is thankful to be part of this talented cast in her first production at WFT. Area credits include Intimate Apparel (Lyric Stage Co.), Absence (Boston Playwrights' Theatre), Dollhouse, Rent, and Passing Strange (New Rep), The Comedy of Errors (Commonwealth Shakespeare), The Seagull (A.R.T.), The Superheroine Monologues (Phoenix/Company One), Sonia Flew (u/s, Huntington Theatre Co.) and productions with Zeitgeist Stage, Gold Dust Orphans, Queer Soup, Comedie du Jour and ImprovBoston. A proud member of AEA and StageSource, Cheryl serves on three arts boards in the Boston community.

Mark W. Soucy (Mr. Wilkinson, Miner #2, Ensemble) is making his debut at WFT with this production. He recently performed in Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's The Boys from Syracuse (Aegeon), Love's Labour's Lost (Sir Nathaniel), and King Lear (Albany). Other local roles include The Elephant Man (John Merrick), The Real Inspector Hound (Moon), and The Dresser (Norman). Mark served as Development Manager at New Repertory Theatre from 1994-2010 and is now an independent fundraising consultant.

Jane Staab (Actor Coach), a founder of Wheelock Family Theatre and Harwich Winter Theatre, continues to act and direct on Cape Cod and is happy to be back among so many friends and talented people to help her favorite team (Susan, Laurel and Jon) mount this meaningful story at WFT.

Zoë Stewart (Katherine Grainger, Swing) is honored to be returning to WFT in Billy Elliot! Her regional credits include A Christmas Carol (The Hanover Theatre), Akeelah and the Bee and A Year with Frog and Toad (WFT), and Billy Elliot (North Shore Music Theatre, IRNE Award). She is an avid choreographer and photographer. Zoë thanks everyone at WFT, her mentors, and all of her family and friends for their endless love, guidance, and support along this journey. www.Zoe-stewart.com

Jared Troilo (Tony) is thrilled to be making his WFT debut! Most recently, he appeared as Marcus Moscowicz in the Boston premiere of Murder for Two at the Lyric Stage Company. Favorite New England credits include Significant Other, Dogfight, Far from Heaven (SpeakEasy Stage), My Fair Lady (Lyric Stage) The Little Mermaid, A Little Princess (Fiddlehead Theatre), West Side Story, Godspell, Les Misérable (Palace Theatre, NH), The Drowsy Chaperone, Das Barbecü (Barnstormers Theatre). He received his B.F.A. from The Boston Conservatory and is a proud member of AEA. Love to Kira. jaredtroilo.wixsite.com/jaredtroilo.

Charlotte B. Um (Tina Harmer) is a sophomore at Boston University Academy and is thrilled to be making her WFT debut! She has been classically educated with Boston Ballet for over 13 years in ballet, pointe, modern, and character. Charlotte has been trained vocally in Berklee College of Music's High School Academy. Favourite credits include Fancy Nancy (Rhonda, Dance Captain), Cinderella (Joy), Peter Pan (Tinkerbell, Dance Captain), Grease (Patty Simcox, Dance Captain), Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker (lamb, polli, flower girl), and has performed in Jordan Hall, the John Hancock building, and for Nelson Mandela's Memorial Service. Charlotte thanks the amazingly talented cast and crew, and her family for their endless love and support!

Gigi Watson (Clipboard Woman, Woman 2, Mrs. Wilkinson u/s, Dance Captain) is making her debut with WFT. Boston credits include The Gypsy Machine (Theatre On Fire), The T Party (Company One), Rent, Jesus Christ Superstar (Fiddlehead Theatre Company), The Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth (Brown Box Theatre Project), Meet Me in St. Louis (Stoneham), Coriolanus (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company) and Café Variations (ArtsEmerson/SITI Company). Gigi also works as a voiceover artist and yoga teacher. BFA Musical Theatre, Emerson College. www.gigiwatson.com

Lisa Wondolowski (Asst. Stage Manager) is pleased to be back at WFT, where she recently stage-managed Akeelah and the Bee. She has had the pleasure to work at various theatres in New England including the Hanover in her hometown of Worcester, Off the Grid, Wellesley Repertory Theatre, Fiddlehead, Ogunquit Playhouse and more. She is a proud member of AEA. donatelife.net

Caroline Workman (Lesley, Ensemble, Dance Captain) is thrilled to be in Billy Elliot - her seventh Wheelock production! In 2011, she made her Broadway debut as a ballet girl/swing in Billy Elliot. She is honored to be telling this beautiful story once again. Favorite credits include: Dance captain in Footloose (Cambridge Rindge and Latin School) and Minli in Mountain Meets...Moon (Cape Cod Theatre Company, WFT). Additionally, Caroline performs in her high school's a capella group, Sassafras, and with the Cambridge Youth Dance Company. Thanks to Sue, Jon and Laurel, Clive and Lisa, Jane, Priscilla, Rachel, and Gigi, and the BE cast/crew/creative and WFT staff. Special thanks to her Mrs. Wilkinson, Deborah Mason, and to her friends and family for their support.









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