

Wheelock Family Theatre

Presents

THE
Beanstalk,

THE
Giant,

AND
Jack

April 8 - May 8

a slapstick folktale

dramatized by Anthony Hancock and Susan Kosoff
music by Jane Staab

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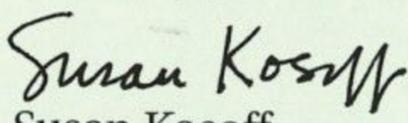
Heigh ho! Welcome to our final production of the season - a silly romp meant to delight as we usher in the long-awaited spring. *Beanstalk* is a play that I hold dear, because it was written in collaboration with my pal, Tony Hancock.

Along with the excitement of mounting the show has been the glorious recognition WFT received on March 28 - the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Commonwealth Award, the state's highest honor in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

And, to top it off, we are thrilled to announce our 25th anniversary season. (See the insert in your program and our lobby display, and consider subscribing early.) It is a season that will be filled with celebratory events, as we rejoice in a quarter century of transforming lives through live theatre.

So . . . upward ho and on the go!
We hope you will enjoy our show.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Kosoff

Producer



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WFT is supported in part by the Actors' Equity Foundation; Bank of America; c2 (caption coalition) inc; Cultural Access Consortium; The Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Peabody Foundation; Wheelock College; VSA arts of Massachusetts; and The Yawkey Foundation.

Wheelock Family Theatre is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the American theatre.

The Wheelock Family Theatre is dependent on performance income and contributions. Your support is needed to sustain the Theatre. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law and may be sent to the Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston, MA 02215-4176.

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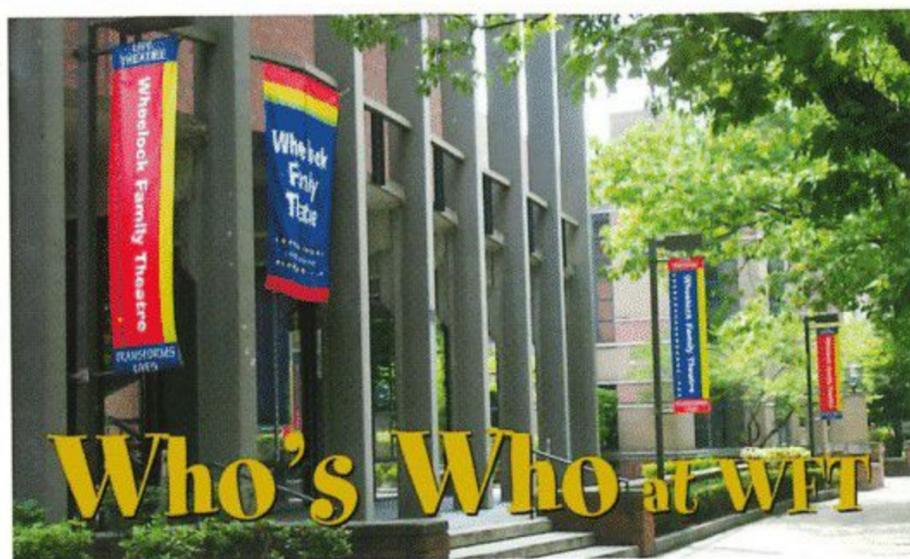
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Sirena Abalian (Chorus) has performed with Boston Children's Opera as a Joke Jester in *Cinderella* and on WFT's stage in *Ramona Quimby!* She also enjoys dancing and arts and crafts. Sirena is in her third year at Boston Ballet.

Andy Aldous (Sound Designer) is happy to be back at WFT, where he has contributed to *Ramona Quimby* and *Snow White*, among others. Other local credits include *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Our Place) and *Asher's Command* (Nora). Andy has moved into industrial/commercial/audio-visual work after ten seasons as the Huntington's production sound engineer. His rigging expertise stems from ropes course design and construction, years of theatrical work, and youth group rock climbing.

Laurie Aldous (Production Stage Manager) is happy to return to WFT for a second season and to be part of this show. She also works at other theatres in the area, including the Nora and the Huntington.

Ilana Blumsack (Chorus), a second grader at Solomon Schechter Day School, is making her WFT debut! She has performed in three plays (*Shrek*, *Bibliodrama*, and *Sponge Bob*) at her school and loves singing, acting, and soccer. Thanks to her mom and dad for helping her.

Dan Bolton (Groom, Lancelot, Harpist) is thrilled to return to WFT, where he has previously appeared in *Tuck Everlasting*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Our Town*, *Little Women*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Other local credits include *When Pigs Fly!* (Lyric), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Foothills), *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (Jewish Theatre of NE), and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Merrimack Rep). Dan has also been seen in shows for SpeakEasy, American Stage Festival, the Nora, NY Theatre Workshop, and the Lake George Opera Festival. He is a graduate of Boston College.

Sarah G. Brown (Miss Bossy, The Beanstalk) is excited to return to WFT, where she was seen in *Ramona Quimby* as Tammy the waitress, the Brownie leader, and Selma. She has also acted with Theatre Espresso and Kid Stage! at the Children's Museum, and can be seen performing every Thursday night at Improv Asylum in the North End. Sarah recently graduated from Emerson with a master's in Theatre Education.

(continued on page 5)

WHO'S WHO (continued from page 4)

James P. Byrne (*Director, Set Designer*) "grew up" at the Harwich Junior Theatre and now produces, teaches, designs, and directs theatre with and for all ages, from Provincetown to Boston, New York to New Orleans to Los Angeles. Using drag queens, children, visual artists, and professional actors, Jim has presented works by Shakespeare, Frank L. Baum, Charles Ludlum, Homer, the Dalai Lama, the Hopi, and Ryan Landry. Previous WFT directing credits include *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *The Trumpet of the Swan*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Tempest*, *The Hobbit*, *Stuart Little*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Happy Days*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Zach Cone (*Chorus*) appears for the first time on WFT's stage (aside from set changes); he has previously worked backstage and on spotlight here. High school performance credits include *Peter Pan* (Smee). Zach is studying early childhood education and theatre at Wheelock College and is happy to be sharing the stage - and the backstage - with such great people.

John Davin (*Doctor Brown, Baby Willie*) has covered the spectrum from rats to wolves to dwarfs in past WFT appearances, and feels that the role of Baby Willie marks a fitting pinnacle to his career. Thanks to Ms. Staab and Mr. Byrne for seeing beyond his glamorous exterior and into the inner Willie crying to be free.

Alexander Minh-Anh Day (*Chorus*) loves to tinker, build contraptions, and solve math puzzles. He also likes the music from his cello, even if he doesn't like practicing every day. Minh-Anh, a second grader, is related to another penguin in this show. Mais, oui!

Elly Tâm-Anh Day (*Chorus*) has visited Hanoi, Paris, Prague, London, and Vienna, but Milton is home. Her favorite animals are Teeny, Defender, and Blaze; her favorite people include her brothers, her fifth grade friends at Glover School, her soccer team, and her Boston Ballet buddies. (Her parents can be more favorite if they raise her allowance.) Elly wants to change the world for the better.

Emily Eldridge-Ingram (*Chorus*) is thrilled to return to WFT, where she has appeared in *The Trumpet of the Swan*, *Pippi Longstocking*, and *Snow White*. She has also performed in a Harvard student production of *South Pacific* as Ngana. Other credits include *Annie*, *The Lion King*, and *Willy Wonka . . .* at the Cabot After School Program in Newton. When not involved in theatre, you can find Emily practicing karate, the piano, or her string bass. She also plays an awesome defense for her JP soccer team.

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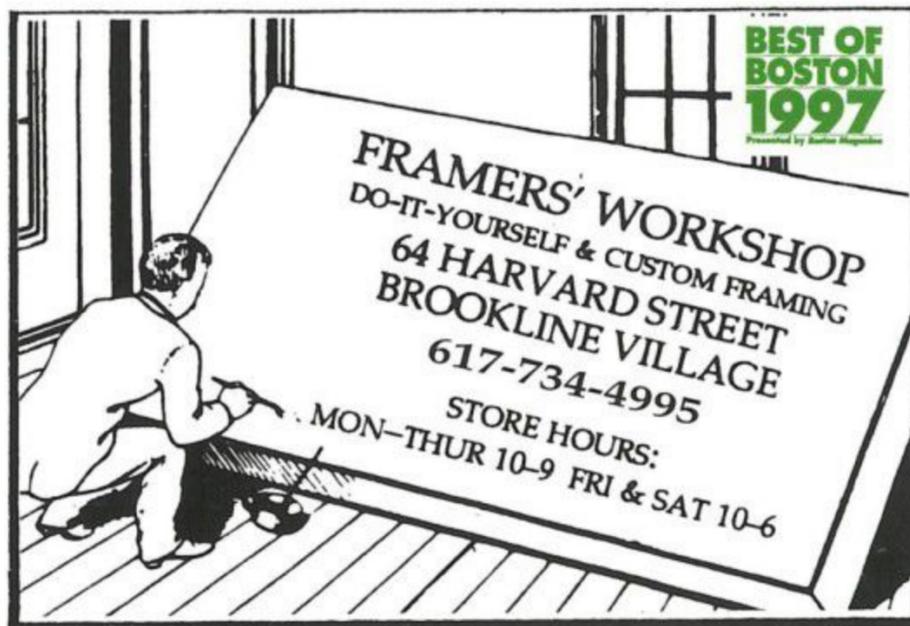
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WHO'S WHO (continued from page 5)

Khalil Flemming (*Master Jack*), a fifth grader at Lynn Woods Elementary School, is thrilled to be cast in the role of Jack in his debut at WFT! Recent credits include *103 Within the Veil* (Company One), *Richard III* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), and *A State of Grace* (a public reading with Underground Railway). He has appeared in commercials and has presented Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Khalil's hobbies include basketball, football, and soccer. Thanks to everyone at WFT for the opportunity to learn from and contribute to this production.

Kristen Fields (*Chorus*) enjoys swimming, Double Dutch, and vacationing. She is an honor roll student and enjoys her teachers and friends.

Marisol Getchell (*Chorus*) is in second grade, has five pet birds (including a rascalion lovebird), and loves acting. She was thrilled to be in WFT's *Ramona Quimby* and is happy to be back.

Neil Gustafson (*Squire Greene*) is happy to return to the WFT stage, where he was last seen as Henry Drummond in *Inherit the Wind*. He was also seen by Wheelock audiences as Gideon in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, King Henry VIII and The Ruffler in *The Prince and the Pauper*, King Alonso in *The Tempest*, and Teddy Lloyd in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Neil performs his one-man show *Isaiah Thomas - Patriot Printer* for the American Antiquarian Society. Internationally, he has appeared in works by Shakespeare and Chekhov. On TV, he has played roles on *The Practice*; *Spenser: For Hire*; and *A Midwife's Tale*. On the big screen, Neil played Yuri Spinov in *Next Stop, Wonderland*. His favorite role is as the father of his lovely daughter, Katherine.

Tadesh Dow Inagaki (*Chorus*), a student at Boston Latin, plays the violin in a BLS string ensemble and in the Junior String Quartet. He also studies drums and enjoys snowboarding, baseball, and sailing. Tadesh has enjoyed taking WFT classes over the summers and during the school year. This is his WFT debut.

Dew Jareanvai (*Chorus*) has performed twice in Boston's First Night celebration with the local theatre group Access to Theatre and twice in Thailand. This is Dew's WFT debut.

Shauday Johnson-Jones (*Chorus*) is pleased to be making her WFT debut. She has performed in three African American Theatre Festivals and was Assistant Stage Manager for three shows in this year's Festival. She most recently appeared as Brianna in *Don't Let the Joneses Get You Down* and on the reality TV series *Knock First*. Thanks to Our Place Theatre Project for their support, the Generation Excel program, and her family.

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WHO'S WHO (continued from page 6)

Cheyenne Jones (*Chorus*) has taken classes and performed at WFT for seven years. Past credits include *Ramona Quimby, The Prince and the Pauper, Pippi Longstocking,* and *Snow White*. She has also appeared in *Charlotte's Web* at Boston Children's Theatre and presently performs with the Jamnastics Dance Performance Team. Cheyenne thanks Jane - for all the opportunities to do what she loves - and Mom and Mama for all their support.

Elbert Joseph (*Miss Bossy, Chorus*) is "gen-u-whinely" delighted to be in this production with this wonderful cast. Recent appearances include Euripides' *Alcestis* at the Cutler Majestic and ASL-interpretation of the Nora's *The Sea Horse*. Congratulations to WFT on turning 25 - he hopes his 25th will be as special for him. Thanks to Jane, Sue, Jim, Charles, Rich, Matt, Laurel, and Laurie.

Charli Klowden (*Chorus*) is a third grader at Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester, where she is appearing in her third school performance this spring. She performs seasonally with a Jamaica Plain camp, Kids . . . Together in the Arts. Charli is flexible in spirit and as a gymnast. She enjoys playing piano and is her mother's personal fashion consultant.

Emily Kosoff (*Chorus*) is a sophomore at Willow Hill School, where she is a proud member of the soccer, basketball, and track teams. She has appeared in many productions at WFT and at Harwich Junior Theatre. She enjoys skating and singing lessons. Emily is very excited to be a part of this show and dedicates her performance to her family and friends.

Anthony Hancock (*Playwright*), a founder and integral part of WFT until his death in 1990, was a true renaissance man. He wrote and directed numerous plays for WFT, designed, built, and painted most all of the sets during the Theatre's first decade, and created many exciting properties - including the masks for the Giant Queen and the Giant Prince used in this production of *The Beanstalk, the Giant, and Jack*.

Susan Kosoff (*Playwright*) is a founder and the producer of WFT. A professor of theatre arts and education at Wheelock College, Susan began writing for the theatre when she studied with Betty Bobp as a Wheelock undergraduate. She has written many plays, five of which (*O Happy Day, Let There Be Light, The Secret Garden, A Little Princess,* and *Beanstalk*) have been produced at WFT. Susan is a member of the board of StageSource, Cultural Access Consortium, and Harwich Junior Theatre.

(continued on page 11)

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The Beanstalk, the Giant, and Jack

a slapstick folktale

dramatized by Anthony Hancock and Susan Kosoff • music by Jane Staab

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LIGHTING DESIGNER

John R. Malinowski

CHOREOGRAPHER

Laurel Stachowicz

COSTUME DESIGNER

Marian Piro

SOUND DESIGNER

Andy Aldous

MASK DESIGNER

Janet Meyers

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Laurie Aldous*

ASL INTERPRETERS

Sharon M. Mendes
Michael Sullivan

AUDIO DESCRIBER

Hanna Schneider

THE CAST

Uncle Bill	Bill Mootos*
Mistress Molly/Madame la Chef	Gamalia Pharms*
Master Jack	Khalil Flemming
Sister Kate	W. Yvonne Murphy
Miss Bossy	Sarah G. Brown, Elbert Joseph
Squire Greene	Neil Gustafson*
Doctor Brown/Baby Willie	John Davin*
The Prince	J.H. Williston*
The Queen	Jane Staab*
The Bride/Lady Elaine/The Harp	Grace Napier*
The Groom/Sir Lancelot/The Harpist	Dan Bolton*
Father of the Bride	Matthew T. Lazure

CHORUS: Sirena Abalian, Ilana Blumsack, Zach Cone, Alexander Minh-Anh Day, Elly Tãm-Anh Day, Emily Eldridge-Ingram, Kristen Fields, Marisol Getchell, Tadesh Dow Inagaki, Dew Jareanvai, Shauday Johnson-Jones, Cheyenne Jones, Charli Klowden, Emily Kosoff, David Mokriski, Laura Morell, Dan Reulbach, Alison Rowe, Rebecca Stevens, Sarah Stillman, Kenan Johnson Verna

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHTS: This play should be done in the highly charged, age-old style of the Commedia dell'Arte, employing crude props, simple scenery, exaggerated masks, padded costumes, and a method of acting based on broad physical comedy and stock characterization. Double casting is to be used whenever possible. For example, Sir Lancelot and Lady Elaine should be doubled with the Bride and Groom.

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

Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices. The taking of photographs and use of recording devices is strictly forbidden. Please turn off cell phones and beepers. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre.

WFT's Wireless amplification system was made possible by a grant from the Cabot Family Charitable Trust.

Costumes for this production were created with the support of Suzanne Weinstein in honor of Frederic Weinstein.

Open captioning provided in collaboration with c2 (caption coalition) inc, www.c2net.org.

Deaf/Blind interpreting provided in collaboration with Cultural Access Consortium.



Wheelock Family Theatre is a member of StageSource, the Alliance of Theatre Artists and Producers, and of the Theatre Artists' Marketing Alliance.

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

Wheelock Family Theatre

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Production Assistant	Jennifer Provoost
ASL Consultant	Brenda Rennie
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Flight Rigger	Andy Aldous
Scenic Painter	Lauren Drake
Master Electrician	Henry Drummond
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Sound	Jesse Washburn
Captioning	Lori Marois
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SPECIAL THANKS

Kevin Greeley; Jeri Hammond for the study guide; Harwich Junior Theatre; Manny Heckley, Susan Mackey, Don Simpson, and members of the Wheelock College Facilities staff; Huntington Theatre Company; Matthew Lazure for poster design; Becky Thompson; Chip Towle, Sandy Tubbs, and Nancy Johnson; Aaron Turcotte; the Office of the President and members of the Wheelock College community who have made this production possible.

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

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WHO'S WHO (continued from page 7)

Matthew T. Lazure (*Father of the Bride*) is excited to be performing with WFT. His previous credits include *Carrie* and *The Gulls* with the Gold Dust Orphans. Primarily found behind the scenes here as WFT's Assistant Technical Director and Props Master, Matt has also been a scenic painter for the Provincetown Theatre Co.

John R. Malinowski (*Lighting Designer*) has designed lighting for WFT's productions of *Ramona Quimby*; *The Good Times Are Killing Me*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; and *Bel Canto*. He has also designed for SpeakEasy, the Lyric Stage, the Sugan, the ART, and the Boston Conservatory. In 1996, John received an Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Design. From 2000-2002, he was a NEA/TCG Career Development Fellow. He is happy to be back in Boston.

Sharon M. Mendes, CI (*ASL Interpreter*) is lead interpreter and Coordinator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at Boston Arts Academy. She has been interpreting for a number of years in liturgical, educational, and theatrical settings. Recent credits include *The Producers* and *The Lion King*. Sharon also interprets high school plays, First Night Boston, Access to Theatre, and the wonderful productions here at WFT. Special thanks to Jody Steiner.

David Mokriski (*Chorus*) began his acting career at age five in TV commercials. Favorite roles include Gavroche in *Les Miserables* (Theatre Ink), Peter Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (Trinity Rep), and Billy in *Assassins* (Metro Stage). David is a freshman at Newton North High School. Thanks to his family for encouraging his dream.

Bill Mootos (*Uncle Bill, Voice of the Hen*) is pleased to be making his WFT debut! He recently appeared in *Perfect Crime* (Foothills), *The Last Sunday in June* (SpeakEasy), *Private Lives* (ME's Public Theatre), and *The Dazzle* (Stoneham). Previous credits include shows with the Lyric, the Huntington, Merrimack Rep, the Coyote, Vineyard Playhouse, and Gloucester Stage among others. He has appeared in many commercials, corporate videos, and independent feature films. Bill is president of the NE branch of SAG and a founding member of the new Village Theatre Project.

Laura Morell (*Chorus*) has been acting since she was seven. Credits include *Fire Bird*, *Wind in the Willows*, *West Side Story*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*. She has also appeared in *Godspell* with her church choir. Laura loves playing basketball and soccer.

W. Yvonne Murphy (*Sister Kate*) is pleased to be making her fifth appearance on the WFT stage. Last seen in WFT's *The Sound of Music* and Company One's *Spell #7*, Yvonne began her professional career with New African Company in

(continued on page 12)

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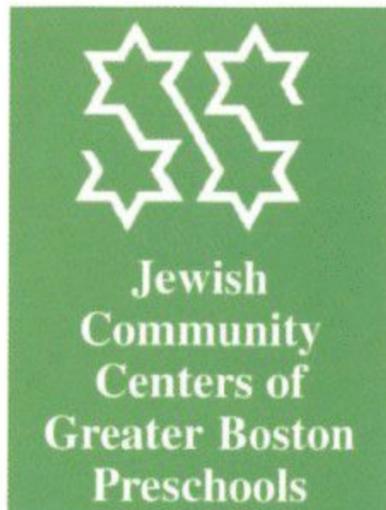
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WHO'S WHO (continued from page 11)

The Colored Museum. With encouragement from Our Place Theatre, she originated the role of Rene in *You*. Recent WFT credits include *Pippi Longstocking* (IRNE nomination), *Snow White*, and *Winnie-the-Pooh*. Yvonne has toured schools with ShakespeareNOW! and currently performs with KidStage at the Children's Museum.

Grace Napier (*Bride, Lady Elaine, Harp*) happily returns to WFT, where her favorite shows include *Cinderella* (title role), *Hello, Dolly!* (Irene), *Little Women* (Meg), *The Music Man* (Marian), and *The Secret Garden* (Martha). Audiences may also recognize her from Trinity Rep's *A Christmas Carol* with Stacy Keach. She has toured nationally with Rudolf Nureyev in *The King and I*, and worked regionally throughout New England. Grace directs the Community Theatre Academy at Walnut Hill School and co-teaches WFT's acclaimed Story Troupers summer program. Love always to Bill and their little beanstalk, Christina!

Gamalia Pharms (*Mistress Molly, Madame la Chef*) is very happy to be a part of *Beanstalk* with friends old and new! Last seen here in *The Sound of Music*, she has also appeared in WFT's *The Good Times Are Killing Me, Cinderella, A Little Princess*, and *Anne of Green Gables*, among many others. She has performed in a national tour of *Ain't Misbehavin'* and at many regional theatres along the East Coast. Gamalia has a BFA in Musical Theatre from the Boston Conservatory. Ooh la la!

Marian Piro (*Costume Designer*) co-founded Costumes by Illusions in 1986 and designs for theatres nationally and locally. The company has worked with Chiswick Park, the Lyric, North Shore, and WFT. Among the many shows she has designed professionally are *The King and I, Lend Me a Tenor, As You Like It, The Man Who Came to Dinner, The Secret Garden*, and *Chicago*.

Dan Reulbach (*Chorus*), a ninth grader at Milton High, is happy to return to WFT for the third time! Last seen here in *Pippi Longstocking*, he also appeared in *The Trumpet of the Swan*. Dan enjoys playing football, soccer, and track.

Alison Rowe (*Chorus*), a fifth grader at the Runkle School, has appeared here in *Pippi Longstocking, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, and *Snow White*. She is a dancer who loves basketball and softball. Alison lives in W. Roxbury with her family and her cat, Misty.

Hanna Schneider (*Audio-Describer*) worked for many years in many capacities at WFT, and continues to help out whenever she can from her home on Cape Cod. Past credits here include *Pippi Longstocking, Hello, Dolly!, Stuart Little, The Hobbit*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. She has also audio-described at Woods Hole Theater Company.

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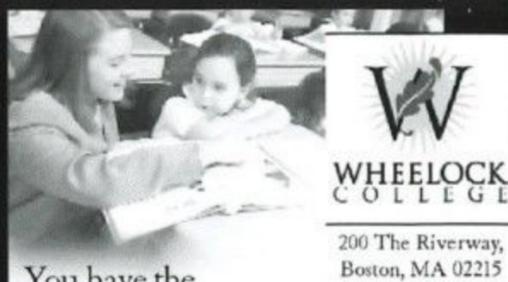
WHO'S WHO (continued from page 12)

Jane Staab (*Queen, Voice of Miss Bossy, Composer*) hasn't had this much to do since playing Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst*, but admits to enjoying the circus-like atmosphere of this revival. Exhausting as Commedia can be, Jane is excited that WFT is introducing this comic style of theatre to so many young people. She hopes you're ready for a fun time.

Laurel Stachowicz (*Choreographer*) returns to WFT, having choreographed *The Sound of Music*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Snow White*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Pippi Longstocking*, and *The Will Rogers Follies* (IRNE Award for Best Choreography). Other credits include *Ragtime* and *Chicago* (Foothills) and the East Coast premiere of *Aida* (Wachusett). Laurel recently finished her BFA in dance, graduating with honors from Smith College. Thank you Jane, Susan, Michael, Molly, Nyssa, and this wonderful cast!

Rebecca Stevens (*Chorus*) is having a blast in her first WFT production. Previous credits include Rhoda in *The Bad Seed*, Little Mary in *The Women*, Baby June in *Gypsy*, and Maggie Brown in the world premiere of *Women and the Sea*. A North Shore fourth grader, Rebecca takes private lessons in voice and tap dancing, studies with Boston Ballet, and plays a mean sax.

(continued on page 14)



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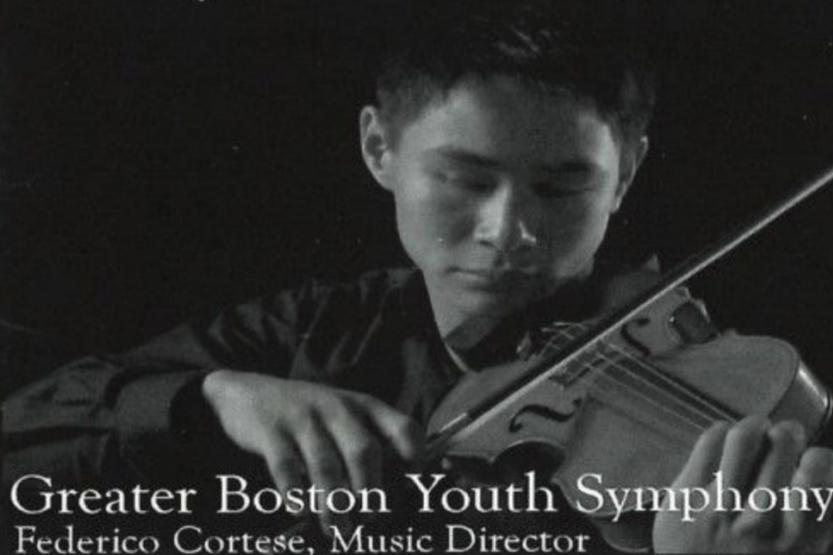
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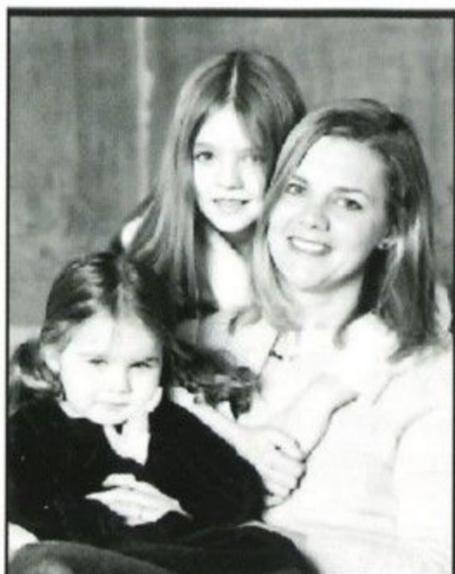
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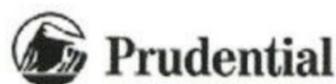




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VIOLET

WHO's WHO (continued from page 13)

Sarah Stillman (*Chorus*) has performed in 15 shows with Art Barn, including *Annie* and *Kiss Me, Kate*. Last summer, Sarah attended Stagedoor Manor and won an award for outstanding achievement in a musical. Thanks to her parents, friends, family, and mentor, Chloe Cara-Russack.

Michael Sullivan (*ASL Interpreter*) is happy to return to WFT after interpreting *The Phantom Tollbooth* and providing tactile ASL interpreting for Deaf-Blind audience members. Other theatre credits include *Lounge-Zilla! The Asian Who Sings the Blues* (Theater Offensive); *Matter Familias* (Boston Playwrights'); *Scapin* (New Rep); and *Topdog/Underdog* (Trinity Rep). Thanks to his beautiful partner, Lucy.

Kenan Johnson Verna (*Chorus*), last seen here in *Ramona Quimby*, has taken classes at WFT and performed with Boston Children's Theatre. He enjoys video games, baseball, and reading.

J.H. Williston (*Prince*) last appeared at WFT as Captain Longstocking in *Pippi*. Other credits include Babe Ruth in *Curse of the Bambino*, Kit in *No Way to Treat a Lady*, Czolgosz in *Assassins*, Chief Bromden in... *Cuckoo's Nest*, Sid in *Pajama Game*, Carl Magnus in *A Little Night Music*, Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Frederic in *Lakme*, and Harry Easter in *Street Scene*.

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