

Annie

Book by **Thomas Meehan**
Music by **Charles Strouse**
Lyrics by **Martin Charnin**

Directed by **Nick Vargas**
Choreographed by **Joy Clark**
Music Direction by **Jon Goldberg**



WHEEL LOCK
FAMILY
THEATRE
45th Anniversary

Nov 21 - Dec 21, 2025

DEC 7, 11, & 12:

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November/December 2025

A Note From Harvey Young

Welcome to Wheelock Family Theatre!

I thought that I had seen *Annie* before. I knew the words to many of the songs. I had an image of Annie, the character, in my mind. She wore a red dress. I remembered Punjab, in the film, proving to be very helpful at a critical moment.

To my great surprise when I sat down and watched the original film, I realized that I had seen clips, videos, and excerpts of *Annie* over the years but somehow had missed the full story. I guess you could say that I had streamed—but hadn't seen—*Annie*. It is an odd, but wonderful experience to encounter for the first time a story that you thought that you already knew.

I am excited to meet Annie again. She's here in this very theatre!

Annie, the hero of this story, reminds us that a song can brighten even the worst day. She helps us to see that the problems and challenges of the moment eventually will pass. The sun will come up. Annie teaches us that family is not genetics and DNA. It's the people we love. It is 'Ohana,' as Lilo tells Stitch in another story.

I am glad that you are here. We built this theatre for you.

Harvey Young

Dean, Boston University College of Fine Arts
Board Member, Wheelock Family Theatre



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November/December 2025

A Note From Nick Vargas

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Wheelock Family Theatre's production of *Annie*. It is a joy to share this beloved musical with you, and it means a great deal to welcome you into our theatre as we continue a season focused on resilience, community, and the power of young people to spark change.



As Director and as Wheelock Family Theatre's Executive Director, I approach this show from two connected vantage points. From the artistic side, *Annie* invites us to look at hardship through the eyes of a child who refuses to lose hope. Her optimism is not naïve. It is active, stubborn, and brave. That spirit guided our company throughout this process. You will see it reflected in the performances, in the design, and in the energy the cast brings to every moment onstage.

From the institutional side, *Annie* reminds me why this theatre exists. For 45 years, Wheelock Family Theatre has been a place where young people and families gather to experience stories that champion empathy and imagination. This production features artists at every stage of their creative lives working side by side. Their collaboration mirrors the mission of Wheelock Family Theatre: to build community through shared storytelling and to ensure that Boston's young people see themselves and their possibilities reflected onstage.

As we enter the holiday season, I am reminded how deeply this work aligns with the values we celebrate this time of year: generosity, connection, and care for one another. Mounting a show of this scale takes commitment from the entire Wheelock Family Theatre community, and I am grateful for their dedication. I am equally grateful to you. Your presence keeps this theatre vibrant, and your generosity, in all its forms, helps us continue developing artists and audiences for generations to come.

Thank you for joining us. I hope this production lifts your spirits and reminds you that even when the world feels uncertain, hope has a way of finding the light.

With gratitude,

Nick Vargas

Executive Director, Wheelock Family Theatre & Director, *Annie*

MEET THE CAST OF

Annie



Britt Ambruson



Audrey Awad



Abigail (Abby) Bernard



Stella Centore



Audrey Chan



Kara Chu Nelson



Max Connor *



Josie Mishelle Dixon



Asa Dupras



Grace Etz Korn*



Maya Feldman



Sky Vaux Fuller



Gideon



De'Lon Grant*



Kasia Greaney



Shannon Lee Jones*



Elliana Karris



Maeve Kennedy



Allie Knupp



AK Kovaz

MEET THE CAST OF

Annie



Reese Krebs



Ruby Mark



Todd McNeel Jr.



Bella Rose Nevin



Cleveland "Mac" Nicoll



Ray O'Hare



Firo Oliva Ridge



Gray Oliveira



Melissa Paz



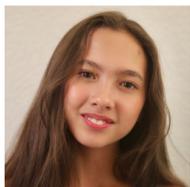
Brian Pereira Coelho*



Chip Philips*



Livia Quist



Lola Rhoads



Penelope Rhoads



Pearl Scott*



Kate Sheridan



Jackson Brady Smith



Elena Talbot



Maxwell Tate



Brandon Wong

*Member of Actor's Equity Association

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MUSICAL PROGRAM

ACT 1

Overture Orchestra
Maybe Annie & Orphans
It's the Hard Knock Life Annie & Orphans
It's the Hard Knock Life (Reprise) Orphans
Tomorrow Annie
We'd Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover Ensemble
Little Girls Miss Hannigan
Little Girls (Reprise) Miss Hannigan
I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here Grace, Annie, & Ensemble
N.Y.C. Warbucks, Grace, Annie, Star-to-Be, & Ensemble
Easy Street Rooster, Miss Hannigan & Lily
You Won't Be an Orphan for Long Grace & Warbucks
Why Should I Change a Thing? Warbucks
Maybe (Reprise) Annie

Intermission

ACT 2

Entr'acte Orchestra
Maybe (Reprise) Annie
You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile.....Bert Healy & The Boylan Sisters
You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile (Reprise) Orphans
Easy Street (Reprise) Rooster, Miss Hannigan & Lily
Tomorrow (Reprise) Annie, Roosevelt, Warbucks & Cabinet
Something Was Missing Warbucks
Annie Grace, Drake & Staff
I Don't Need Anything But You Warbucks & Annie
Maybe (Reprise) Annie
A New Deal for Christmas.....Warbucks, Grace, Annie, Roosevelt, Orphans & Staff
Tomorrow Company

ORCHESTRA

Reed 1	Reed 2	Reed 2 (sub)
Joe LaRocca	Christian Aroyo Castillo	Andres Almira
Trumpet	Trumpet (sub)	Trombone
Paul Perfetti	Greg Hopkins	Russell Jewell
Bass / Tuba / Keys 2	Bass / Tuba / Keys 2 (sub)	Drums
Brooks Clarke	Kate Foss	Josh Goldman
	Keyboard & Conductor	
	Jon Goldberg	

ANNIE

Book by **Thomas Meehan**

Director
Nick Vargas

Scenic Designer
Ryan Bates

Sound Designer
Gage Baker***

Assistant Stage Manager
Becca Cottrell

Lyrics by **Martin Charnin**

Music Director
Jon Goldberg

Lighting Designer
Jessica Elliott

Associate Director
Lisa Joyce

Stage Manager
Lisette van den Boogaard*

Music by **Charles Strouse**

Choreographer
Joy Clark

Props Designer
Sarabeth Spector

Costume Designer
Chloe Moore

Assistant Stage Manager
Jolie Frazer-Madge*

THE CAST

In order of appearance

Pepper **Kasia Greaney**
Duffy **Stella Centore**
July **Livia Quist**
Tessie **Lola Rhoads**
Kate **Penelope Rhoads**
Annie **Sky Vaux Fuller**
Miss Hannigan **Shannon Lee Jones***
Mr. Bundles/FDR/Ensemble **Chip Phillips***
Apple Seller/Ensemble **Maxwell Tate**
Sandy **Gideon**
Grace Farrell **Pearl Scott***
Drake/Ensemble/Dance Captain **Brian Pereira Coelho***
Annette/Boylan Sister/Ensemble **Britt Ambruson**
Mrs. Greer/Boylan Sister/Ensemble/Understudy (Lily) **Grace Etzkorn***
Mrs. Pugh/Boylan Sister/Ensemble/Understudy (Grace) **Melissa Paz**
Cecile/Ensemble **Allie Knupp**
Oliver Warbucks **De'Lon Grant***
Star-to-Be/Ensemble **Reese Krebs**
Rooster Hannigan/Ensemble **Cleveland "Mac" Nicoll**
Lily St. Regis/Ensemble **Kara Chu Nelson**
Bert Healy/Ensemble **Max Connor***
Orphan Ensemble **Josie Mishelle Dixon, Maya Feldman, AK Kovaz, Bella Rose Nevin**
Ensemble **Asa Dupras, Firo Oliva Ridge, Gray Oliveira**
Understudies **Audrey Awad (Molly), Abigail (Abby) Bernard (Annie), Elliana Karris (Mrs. Pugh/ Mrs. Greer), Maeve Kennedy (Cecile, Star-to-Be), Ruby Mark (Ensemble), Todd McNeel Jr. (Oliver Warbucks), Ray O'Hare (Bundles/FDR), Kate Sheridan (Miss Hannigan), Jackson Brady Smith (Drake, Apple Seller), Elena Talbot (Orphan), Brandon Wong (Bert Healy, Rooster Hannigan)**

*Member of Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Manager in the United States. Wheelock Family Theatre is operating under the terms of a Developing Theatre's Program of Actor's Equity Association. The contract used is a Letter of Agreement.
***Member of United Scenic Artists 829

WHELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

In alphabetical order by last name

STAFF

Asst. Dir. for Audience Services, ADA Coord.	Jamie Aznive
Dir. of Education & Community Engagement	Jeri Hammond
Asst. Dir. of Ed. & Community Engagement	Marie Libbin
Technical Director	Ben Lieberson
Associate Dir. of Administrative Operations	Deborah Rosenstein
Executive Director	Nick Vargas
Production Manager	Steve Vieira
Marketing & Communications Manager	Bonnie VosWinkel

PRODUCTION TEAM

Front of House Manager	Molly Bercutt
Youth Supervisor	Jenn Butler
Wardrobe Assistant	Heidi Keithan
Scenic Charge Artist	Saskia Martinez
Production Electrician	Nate Morrissey
Backstage Swing	Anika Nayak
Deck Captain	Addie Pates
Associate Sound Designer	Zachariah Rosenbaum
A1 / Audio Engineer	Bekah Rudinec
A2 / Deck Electrician	Ben Ruigomez
Inclusion Consultant - Art & Soul Consulting	Kira Troilo & Ari Welch
Associate Sound Designer	Irene Wang
Wardrobe Supervisor	Marissa Wolf

ACCESS TEAM

Open Caption Formatter/Social Story	Alyse Clinton
Pre-Show Audio Describer	Cori Couture
Director of Artistic Sign Language	Takiyah "Taki" Harris
Pre-Show Audio Describer	Ruth Kahn
Blind Consultant	Mikey Rose
ASL Feed Interpreter	Jordan Whitlow
ASL Interpreters	Cassie Heath, Erin McCathy, Todd Schulbaum

SPECIAL THANKS

Neil Gustafson, Brian Masters, Elliott Purcell, Kiran Raza, Adam Smith, Franklin Romero & the Fenway BU Facilities Team, Sanjeev Joshi, BU School of Theatre Scene Shop, College of Fine Arts Staff & Faculty, Erin Markham, Savannah Walther, Demi Dicarlo, Jacob Nail

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

WHELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

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Please ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

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

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

Wheelock Family Theatre is a program of the BU College of Fine Arts, a member of ArtsBoston, MASS Creative, Cultural Access New England (CANE), Theatre for Young Audiences/USA, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council's UP Initiative.

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Bravo to Wheelock Family Theater and the incredible cast and crew of *Annie!*



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WHO'S WHO

Britt Ambruson (Annette/ Boylan Sister/ Ensemble) -she/her- is overjoyed to make her Wheelock Family Theatre debut! This one is dear to her heart, having played Annie and Pepper in her youth. Favorite credits: Katherine Plumber - *Newsies* (Stadium Theatre); *The Marvelous Party* (THT Rep); *Can-Can* (Sullivan Rep); Illyrian Officiant/Olivia Understudy - *Twelfth Night The Musical* (AFD); *Lucy - Jekyll & Hyde* (Stageworks Arts). Britt is also a licensed Architect and Resident Set Designer for the *Treehouse Collective* (Recent: *The Ballad of Little Jo*, *Bull in a China Shop*, *February House*). Endless gratitude to family + friends, and to Ron for always believing in me. @brittambruson

Audrey Awad (Understudy Molly) is 7 and excited for her first Wheelock Family Theatre Show! Audrey has performed in *James and the Giant Peach* and *Willy Wonka* at Wellesley Theatre Project. She is a blue belt in karate, in book 2 of Suzuki Violin, and loves her dog Chewie, her brothers Evan and Noah, her mom, dad, grampa, mormor, and family in Atlanta, D.C. and Kansas.

Abigail (Abby) Bernard (Understudy Annie) is grateful and blessed for her Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Credit: Pinocchio (*Shrek Jr*), Katherine Plumber (*Newsies Jr*), Celebrate the King, Jiggin' (*The Jug*). Performances at: The Jimmy Fund ScooperBowl fundraiser, The Broadway South Boston, and in the movie *Candlelight My Way*. She thanks her teachers: Berklee Preparatory Academy for Musical Theatre/Voice/Dance, Meegan Delvalent at Dayspring Christian Academy, Katie Pohlman Inc, Leblanc School of Acting, New England Dance Academy, Jessi Clayton and Bobby Cronin, Meli Music Lessons. Abby's grandparents Dr. Jacob and Claudette Bernard inspire her, running an orphanage, Hope For the Children of Haiti, for over 30 years. @abbybernard.music

Stella Centore (Duffy) is overjoyed to return to Wheelock Family Theatre this holiday season! Favorite past credits include *The Wizard of Oz* (Lullaby League, NSMT), *A Christmas Carol*

(‘23&’24, Tiny Tim, NSMT), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Bielke, NSMT), *Matilda* (Amanda Thripp, Wheelock Family Theatre), *Beetlejuice Jr.* (Girl Scout, NSMT), *Matilda* (Matilda, MetroWest Family Theatre), *Annie Jr.* (Annie, Kidstock), *Frozen Jr.* (Young Anna, GMS) and more! Stella dances at Refine Dance Studio and studies voice with Isabel Molettieri. She thanks everyone at Wheelock Family Theatre for this amazing opportunity, and all of her friends and family for their love and support!

Audrey Chan (Molly) is excited to make her mainstage debut with Wheelock Family Theatre! She previously had a wonderful experience performing with Wheelock Family Theatre in *Peter and the Wolf* and felt privileged to perform with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra at the Hatch Shell. Molly has been one of her favorite roles, and she's thrilled for this opportunity! Audrey also appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* (Lullaby League/Monkey, Stadium Theatre), *Christmastime* (Elf, Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston), and *Matilda* (Ensemble, MetroWest Family Theater). She loves singing and is part of the dance competition team with House of Dance.

Kara Chu Nelson (Lily St. Regis/ Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Kara grew up seeing shows at Wheelock Family Theatre, and her first theatre role was as Mrs. Pugh in a middle school production of *Annie*, so this is all beautifully "full circle" for her. Kara has also worked at Lyric Stage Co., North Shore Music Theatre, Moonbox Productions, and Seacoast Rep, among others. Favorite past roles include Éponine in *Les Misérables*, Marcy Park in *...Spelling Bee*, Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown*, and Samantha Brown in *The Mad Ones*. Many thanks to her parents for never missing a show.

Max Connor* (Bert Healy/ Ensemble) -he/him- is so excited to be returning to Wheelock Family Theatre after appearing as SpongeBob in *The SpongeBob Musical* last year. Since then he has played Barnaby (*Hello, Dolly!*) at The Lyric Stage, and Emmet Forest (*Legally Blonde*) at Emerald City Theatricals. Max is now in his second year post-grad from Emerson College and is so excited for the year ahead. He is so

grateful for the many people in his life who have supported him, and a special shoutout to his family and friends.

Josie Mishelle Dixon (Orphan Ensemble) is thrilled to perform with Wheelock Family Theatre in *Annie!* Previous roles include Nemo in *Finding Nemo Jr.*, Young Anna in *Frozen Jr.*, and Camille in *Junie B. Jones Kids*, all with Blue Forest Theatre Academy. She has also previously appeared in *Matilda Jr.*, *Newsies Jr.*, and *Elf Jr.* Her screen credits include the lead role in a television commercial. RoPopToJoStainDie Forever!!

Asa Dupras (Ensemble) is extremely excited to be making their Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Asa is a recent graduate of Emerson College's BFA Musical Theatre program. Some of their favorite credits include *Natasha*, *Pierre*, and *The Great Comet of 1812* (Dolokhov), *Amour* (Dusoleil), *Heathers* (Heather Chandler), *Sunday in the Park With George* (Louis/Billy Webster), and *Rock of Ages* (Drew). Asa is an actor, designer, and director born and raised in Upstate New York. They would like to extend many thanks to the creative team, family, and friends for their support and guidance. Asa hopes you enjoy *Annie!*

Grace Etzkorn* (Mrs. Greer/ Boylan Sister/ Ensemble/ Understudy, Lily) is delighted to make her Wheelock Family Theatre debut in *Annie!* Her first production of the show was eighteen years ago as Kate & Annie on the 30th Anniversary National Tour, directed by lyricist Martin Charnin. Boston credits: *Can Can & Annie* at Sullivan Rep, *Beehive: The 60s Musical* at Greater Boston Stage Company. @graceetzkorn. Much love to Geoffrey and her own personal 'Sandy' - Max.

Maya Feldman (Orphan Ensemble) -she/her- is delighted to be making her Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Maya's stage credits include John in *Fun Home* (Burlington Players), and performances with Arlington Children's Theatre and Greater Boston Stage Company Young Company. Maya's film credits include *A Complete Unknown* as Mika Seeger. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

Sky Vaux Fuller (Annie) is overjoyed to be back on stage at Wheelock Family Theatre after three years where she starred in her very first theater performance as Matilda Wormwood in *Matilda* (Norton Award nominated). She has performed the role of "the child" in the ART's production of *Evita*, and traveled the country on the National Broadway Tour of *Les Miserables* playing, Little Cosette/ Young Eponine. Most recently, she was in The Goodspeed's production of *South Pacific*, playing Ngana. Sky is thankful for all the love and support from her family and friends, her manager (Darlene Sweeney), and her vocal coaches (Eva Kendrick / Amelia Demayo). Follow Sky on Instagram @skyvaux, YouTube @SkysTheLimit

Gideon (Sandy) Sit Pretty Dog Training was founded in 2017 by Aubrey Sperry, CDBC, CPDT-KA, CNWI, and proudly serves the Greater Boston area, with a focus on Jamaica Plain and nearby neighborhoods. Sit Pretty's certified trainers help families understand and modify their dogs' behavior, from everyday challenges like barking or overexcitement to more complex issues such as fear, reactivity, separation anxiety, and aggression toward people or other dogs. Aubrey and her team believe in compassionate, science-based training that builds communication and strengthens the bond between dogs and their humans. A lifelong animal lover, dog sport competitor, and self-professed theater kid, Aubrey brings that same joy and teamwork to her training, and is thrilled to support Wheelock Family Theatre's mission of inclusion and creativity, and even prouder to share the stage (in spirit!) as the human half of the *Annie* "Sandy" team.

De'Lon Grant* (Oliver Warbucks) is ecstatic to be returning to Wheelock Family Theatre after over ten years. Broadway: *Come From Away*. National Tours: *Jersey Boys*. Regional: *Ain't No Mo'*, *Pru Payne*, *A Strange Loop*, *A Case For The Existence of God*, *Scottsboro Boys* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Invisible Man* (The Huntington Theatre/Studio Theatre); *Our Town*, *Big River*, *Superior Donuts*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Lyric Stage Company); *Saint Joan*, *Seussical*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Phantom*

WHO'S WHO – Cast continued

TollBooth (Wheelock Family Theatre); *Harriet Jacobs* (Central Square Theatre) Film: *Come From Away, Apart, Ghost Light, Surrogates*; De'Lon has an award nominated podcast called *Lemme Fix It!* @thedelondotcom

Shannon Lee Jones* (Miss Hannigan) is thrilled to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre, where she last appeared in *Mary Poppins*. Broadway & National Tour credits include: the original *La Cage Aux Folles, Hello Dolly* w/Carol Channing, *Funny Girl* with Juliet Prowse and *A Chorus Line* (Cassie). Regional credits: Goodspeed Musical Th., Long Wharf Th. Barrington Stage, The Muny Th. out of St Louis, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, North Shore Music Th., Ocean State Th. Local theaters: New Rep, Lyric Stage of Boston, Gloucester Stage Company, Reagle Music Th. and Greater Boston Th. Shannon is on the Dance Faculty at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Kasia Greaney (Pepper) is thrilled to be making her Wheelock Family Theatre debut in *Annie!* Some of her past credits include: *Shrek* (Teen Fiona) (TCT), *Lion King* (Older Nala), *Peter Pan* (Peter Pan), *Fairy Godmother* (Cinderella), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown) and *Davey* (*Newsies Jr.*) Last fall, she received a Broadway World Nomination for Best Supporting Actor as Young Jane in the Production *Baby Jane* (TCT). When not performing, Kasia enjoys soccer, lacrosse, surfing, piano, student counsel and supporting various charities. Thank You to Wheelock Family Theatre for this opportunity and her family and friends for all of their love and support! @kasia_greaney

Elliana Karris (Understudy, Mrs. Pugh/Mrs. Greer) Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Lyric Stage Boston: *Urinetown* (Hope Cladwell/ DC). Greater Boston Stage: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Assistant Choreographer). Weathervane Theatre: *The Wedding Singer* (Holly), *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (Vicki), *Beautiful* (Marilyn Wald). Emerson Stage: *Natasha... Great Comet of 1812* (Hélène/ DC), *Cabaret* (Female Swing). Elliana has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Emerson College and is a proud Las Vegas native. Special thanks to Scott, Sabrina, Chris, Tony, and "the inner circle".

Love to Mom and Dad always; you were my first cheerleaders. Instagram: @elliana.karris. Website: ellianakarris.com

Maeve Kennedy (Understudy Cecile, Star-to-be) is excited to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre! IG: maeveonstage Website: maevekennedy.actor Past favorite roles include *Young Frog in A Year with Frog & Toad* here at Wheelock Family Theatre; *Matilda* at Acting Out! Theater Company; French Narrator in *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition* at North Shore Music Theater; *Troll* in the pilot production of *Between the Lines, Jr.* at Broadway Workshop (NYC). Upcoming: Tobias Ragg in *Sweeny Todd* at Acting Out! Theater Company. Shout out to her friends at French Woods, Broadway Workshop, Acting Out!, Linda, Peg, Laura, Steve, and all others who've helped her along her artistic journey.

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Allie Knupp (Cecile/ Ensemble) is excited to be making her Wheelock Family Theatre debut in *Annie!* Now a freshman in high school, Allie has always loved performing. Some of her favorite past roles include Cady in *Mean Girls Jr.*, Elsa in *Frozen Jr.*, and Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde Jr.* She has been recognized as a Musical Theatre Competition winner with METG and as a Musical Theatre National Quarterfinalist with NATS. When she's not on stage, Allie dances competitively with Dance Studio of Wakefield and is grateful for every moment onstage. Many thanks to Mom, Dad, Grandma, Haley and her voice teacher Isabel.

AK Kovaz (Orphan Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Originally from South Carolina, she discovered her passion for theatre while living in Maine in 2024. Since then, she has performed in multiple productions, including *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob) with MidCoast Theatre Company, *The Nutcracker* (Polichinelle) with Boston Ballet, and *The Two Claras* with Columbia City Jazz. Outside of theatre, AK loves drawing, playing piano, and practicing gymnastics. She is deeply grateful to her mom, dad, Stephen, Molly, and her grandparents for their unwavering encouragement and support on every step of her journey.

Reese Krebs (Star-to-Be/ Ensemble) is so excited to be performing again at Wheelock Family Theatre playing Star-to-be in their production of *Annie!* Previously, Reese made her first debut on the Wheelock Family Theatre stage playing Pearl in *SpongeBob the Musical*. Reese lives in Duxbury where she plays lacrosse in the spring and the Trumpet year round. She would like to thank her parents for always being her number one cheerleaders and is so grateful for another opportunity to perform at Wheelock Family Theatre again.

Ruby Mark (Understudy, Ensemble) is a 5th grader from Winchester, MA, and is thrilled to serve as an understudy in *Annie*. She is currently cast as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* at Greater Boston Stage Company. Ruby has previously appeared as Tessie in *Annie* and Timon in *The Lion King* at Kidstock. She also studies dance and loves every opportunity to

be on stage. When she's not performing, Ruby can be found playing with her new puppy, Beacon, or listening to Broadway albums on repeat. She is grateful to her family, teachers, and the Wheelock team for their support.

Todd McNeel Jr. (Understudy, Oliver Warbucks) -he/him- Wheelock Family Theatre credits: *PROM*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, and *Ragtime*. Other credits: *Toni Stone* (The Huntington Theatre), *Camelot* (The Barnstormers Theatre), *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *Urinetown* (Lyric Stage Boston), *1776* (New Repertory Theater), *Ragtime* (The Boston Pops), *A Christmas Carol* (Legacy Theatre Connecticut), *Sweeney Todd* (Moonbox Productions), *Once On This Island*, *The Bremen Town Musicians*, *Freedom Ride*, *Mark Adamo's Little Women*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Carousel*, *Omar*, *Norma*, *Pagliacci*, *Porgy & Bess*, *Turandot*. Recipient of Emerging Talent Artist award (Kurt Weill Foundation/ Lotte Lenya Competition) Ouachita Baptist University (BA) and Emerson College (MA). @TODDY_MACK.

Bella Rose Nevin (Orphan Ensemble) Wheelock Family Theatre Debut! She loves telling this story and is so happy to be a part of this cast! Bella is in 4th Grade and is from



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Watertown. Last year Bella played Tessie in Sullivan Repertory's production of *Annie*. She has also performed in shows with Artbarn Community Theatre! Bella loves to read, dance (AFDS), play soccer, basketball, and sing Taylor Swift with her friends. Love to her two brothers, her Mom and Dad, and her dog Bernie.

Cleveland "Mac" Nicoll (Rooster Hannigan/ Ensemble) *The SpongeBob Musical* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *As You Like It*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.); *Macbeth*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet* (CSC2); *The Book of Will* (The Hub Theatre Company of Boston); *Strictly Ballroom* (U.S. Premiere) (Hale Centre Theatre). Mac has a BFA in theatre arts from Utah Valley University, and is currently studying Shakespeare through the University of Birmingham. To Rilyn, Charlie, and Penny.

Ray O'Hare (Understudy, Bundles/ FDR) is happy to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre, having last appeared in *Beauty and the Beast*. Past credits include the world premiere of Dolly Parton's *Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* (Emerson Colonial Theatre), work with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and Moonbox Productions, as well as an original cast member of the long running *T: An MBTA Musical*. He also works regularly as a voice over artist for video games and animation. Most important roles: Husband to Jamie and Father to Robin.

Firo Oliva Ridge (Ensemble) -he/him- is thrilled to be performing in his first Wheelock Family Theatre production. His most recent theatrical credits include Narrator Child in *A Christmas Carol* (Trinity Repertory Theater), Kaa in *The Jungle Book Kids* and Judge Yertle in *Seussical* (both at Wellesley Theater Project). A fifth grader at John D. Runkle School in Brookline, Firo has also recently appeared in *Team Hamster Challenge* (PBS Kids) and *Yellowtail* (film). Special thanks to Noel Smith Voice Studio, The Dance Inn, and Brookline School of the Arts.

Gray Oliveira (Ensemble) is a 5th grader at Driscoll School in Brookline. He's thrilled to return to Wheelock Family Theatre Theatre in *Annie!* His love for performing began at

ArtBarn, where he appeared in *Frog & Toad* (Spring Toad), *My Son Pinocchio* (Father Filippo), *Pirates Past Noon* (Petey), and *How to Eat Like a Child* (Gorgie). Most recently, he performed with ArtBarn's Out of the Box Productions, bringing theater-for-social-change to local schools. When he's not on stage, Gray enjoys reading, playing video games, cheering for the Red Sox and Celtics, and going to JP Licks with his two bulldogs, Trudie and Ruthie.

Melissa Paz (Mrs. Pugh/ Boylan Sister/ Ensemble/Understudy, Grace) is thrilled to make her debut with Wheelock Family Theatre. Favorite past credits include *Company*, *Steel Pier*, *Little Night Music*, *Blithe Spirit* (Sullivan Rep); *Evita*, *An American in Paris*, *Oklahoma!* (Reagle Music Theatre); *Cinderella* (The Company Theatre); *Xanadu*, *Legally Blonde* (Footlight Club). She'd like to thank her friends and family for their endless support!

Brian Pereira Coelho* (Drake/ Ensemble/ Dance Captain) is thrilled to return to Wheelock Family Theatre after appearing in *The Prom!* Recent credits include *Evita* (Reagle Music Theater), *Spongebob the Musical* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *Hair* (New Repertory Theater), *West Side Story* (New Bedford Festival Theatre), *Cabaret* (Moonbox Productions). In addition to performing, Brian serves as the theatre director for the Ipswich High School Theatre Company and is the Acting and Dance teacher at Ipswich High School. Brian would like to thank the Wheelock team for this amazing opportunity! Proud member of AEA.

Chip Phillips* (Mr. Bundles/ FDR/ Ensemble) Wheelock Family Theatre: *Anne of Green Gables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *From the Mountain to the Moon*, *Phantom Tollbooth*. Lyric Stage: *Noises Off*, *The Gig*, *She Loves Me*. Greater Boston Stage Company: *Guys and Dolls*, *Titanish*. Merrimack Repertory Company: *The Front Page*. Gloucester Stage Company: *Off-Season*, *Berlin to Broadway* with Kurt Weill. New Repertory Theatre: *Das Barbecu*. Nora Theatre: *Bed and Sofa*, *The Dresser*. Off-Broadway – Arclight Theatre: *Machiavelli*. Westside Theatre: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Snapple Theatre: *Perfect Crime*. Regional: *Falsettos, 1776, Over the River and*

WHO'S WHO – Cast continued

Through the Woods, Sleuth, A Tuna Christmas, Brighton Beach Memoirs.

Livia Quist (July) - she/her - is thrilled for her debut in Wheelock Family Theatre's production of *Annie!* Livia was most recently seen as Young Anna in Disney's *Frozen* at The North Shore Theatre and Ogunquit Playhouse. She had the pleasure of being cast in a national commercial for Culture Pop Soda and keeps busy with her passion for contemporary dance, modeling and acting! She is a 5th grader at Beverly Middle School and would like to thank her family and friends for their love, support and un-ending encouragement!

Lola Rhoads (Tessie) happily returns to Wheelock Family Theatre after playing Lavender in *Matilda*. Other credits include Young Elsa in Disney's *Frozen* (NSMT), Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* (NSMT), the Coroner in *The Wizard of Oz* (NSMT), Ngana in *South Pacific* (Reagle Music Theater), and Miss Adelaide in her school's production of *Guys and Dolls Jr.* Lola also enjoys playing volleyball, baking, golfing,

and dancing in her free time. Thank you to her parents for all their love and support.

Penelope Rhoads (Kate) is so happy to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre! Previous credits include Young Elsa in Disney's *Frozen* (NSMT), Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* (NSMT), the Mayor of Munchkin City and *The Wizard of Oz* (NSMT), and Erica in *Matilda* (Wheelock Family Theatre), Ngana in *South Pacific* (Reagle Music Theatre) and Sarah Brown in her middle school's production of *Guys and Dolls Jr.* She is excited to once again share the stage with her twin, Lola, who is two minutes older than her!

Pearl Scott* (Grace Farrell) is thrilled to join the cast of "Annie" in her first production at Wheelock Family Theatre. Born in Indiana, Pearl moved to Boston 3 years ago. After studying under the late Dr. Stephen Zegree, Indiana University, she spent 4 years as a vocalist in the U.S. Army Bands. Musical theater gave her a home once returning to civilian life. She has been Sojourner Truth in 'Truth; Biofictinal Choreo Poem,' Cindy Lou in 'Winter Wonderettes,' and Ronnette in 'Little Shop of



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WHO'S WHO – Cast continued/Creative & Production Team

Horrors. Singing with this incredibly talented cast, under the direction of a phenomenal creative team, on this stage is truly a pleasure.

Kate Sheridan (Understudy, Hannigan) -she/her- is thrilled to be back with the Wheelock Family Theatre team after last fall's *The SpongeBob Musical* (Mayor). Other favorite credits include *The Wild Party* (Madelaine True) and *Sister Act* (Mother Superior) at *Seacoast Rep*, *Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Annie), and three more productions of *Annie* (one that opened on her 8th birthday). When not performing, Kate is a director, educator, writer, coach, and Great British Bake-Off fangirl. For Doug.

Jackson Brady Smith (Understudy Drake, Apple Seller) is a junior at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. He serves as Co-President of BoCo Cares, a student-run organization supporting Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. His performance credits include *Something Rotten* (dir. Paul Daigneault), *Cinderella* (dir. Laura Marie Duncan), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (dir. Dawn Simmons), as well as Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party*.

Elena Talbot (Understudy, Orphans) is 10 years old and excited to make her debut at Wheelock Family Theatre. When not on stage, you can find her dancing, drawing, and relaxing with family and friends. She would like to thank her dance and theater teachers for helping her grow as a performer, and her family for their love and support.

Maxwell Tate (Apple Seller/ Ensemble) -he/they- is thrilled to be returning to Wheelock Family Theatre in Annie! He made his Wheelock Family Theatre debut earlier this year assistant choreographing and understudying *The Prom!* They are in their third year at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee getting a BFA in Musical Theater. Recent credits include R&H *Cinderella*, *The Wild Party*, *Something Rotten!* (BoCo), and *Mary Poppins* (Summer Theatre of New Canaan). Huge shoutout and thanks to Mom, Dad, Abby, and Tucker. He would also like to dedicate this performance to his biggest supporters, grandma and gram @maxwelltatee.

Gage Baker* (Sound Designer)** is a newly New York-based sound designer, returning to Wheelock Family Theatre after receiving an Elliot Norton Award for Wheelock Family Theatre's *The SpongeBob Musical*. Regional design credits include: SpeakEasy Stage, HUB Boston, Catastrophic Theatre, Rec Room Arts, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Adam Theatre, Blumenthal Arts, Shakespeare in Clark Park, and Moonbox Productions. Upcoming projects include associate sound design for *Tartuffe*, starring Matthew Broderick and David Cross at NYTW; *Romeos and Juliets* at Catastrophic; and *Leela* at the Edinburgh Fringe. Holding a BFA, University of Houston and MFA from Boston University, and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. gagebaker.com

Ryan Bates (Scenic Designer) is a Boston-based scenic designer and educator. Credits include *Misery* (Merrimack Repertory Theater), *The Loyals* (Emerson Stage), *We Will Not Be Silent*, *Ideation*, *Brecht on Brecht*, *The Testament of Mary* (New Repertory Theatre), *Dark Room*, *Salome* (Bridge Repertory Theatre), *Blasted* (Off the Grid), *Hundred Days* (The Umbrella), *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Gloucester Stage Company), and many more. Ryan serves as the Props Director and Affiliated Faculty at Emerson College, and taught Production Design for four years in the Department of Film and Television at BU. MFA: Boston University. www.ryanbatesdesign.com

Joy Clark (Choreographer) is a Boston and NYC-based Musical Theatre performer, educator, and director/choreographer. Choreography, Wheelock Family Theatre: *Make Way for Ducklings*, *Stuart Little*, *Seussical at the Boston Children's Museum*. Wheelock Family Theatre Teen Ensemble: *Head Over Heels*, *Pippin*. Direction/Choreography: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Moonbox Productions), *Our Own Heroes*, *Er liking* (world premieres), *Snoopy the Musical* (CMTSJ). Theatre faculty at Emerson College, Berklee College of Music, and Boston College. Other Musical Theater teaching at Wheelock Family Theatre, ArtBarn, and more. Joy is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and was recently Janet Van De Graaff in Lyric Stage Co's *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

WHO'S WHO – Creative & Production Team

Becca Cottrell (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to return to Wheelock Family Theatre as Assistant Stage Manager for *Annie!* Recent credits include Production Stage Manager for *Learning How To Read By Moonlight* with CHUANG Stage and Company One Theatre, Staff Stitcher at The American Repertory Theatre, and Assistant Stage Manager for *Flora & Ulysses* with Wheelock Family Theatre. Congratulations to this incredible team and thank you for all your hard work. <3

Cori Couture (Pre-Show Audio Describer) -she/hers/her- has provided description for TV, film, and over 80 Boston-area live productions. During the pandemic, she worked with theatres to integrate audio description into innovative online productions. In the early days of WGBH's Descriptive Video Service (DVS), Cori described PBS shows and many movies. She has also worked with DVS to *narrate* description for Paramount, Disney Parks, and educational

programs for NASA and the 9/11 Museum. Cori, who has spina bifida, proudly identifies as a person with a disability. Her message: people with disabilities lead all kinds of lives and can have any job!

Jessica Elliott (Lighting Designer) A transplant from Tulsa, OK, Jessica attended Boston University's MFA program in 2012 and has found a home here. This is her Wheelock Family Theatre debut and she is thrilled to work with some of her favorite artistic collaborators. Credits include: Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (Co-Design): *A Christmas Carol*; Boston Lyric Opera (Associate): *Macbeth*; A.R.T. (Associate): *The Odyssey*, *WILD*, *Macbeth in Stride*, *Chasing Magic*. This fall, Jessica is a member of the lighting design faculty at both Boston University and Emerson College. She also spends time with the high school theatre students at the Cambridge School in Weston. www.jlynnlighting.com

Jolie Frazer-Madge* (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to return to Wheelock Family Theatre, having previously worked as the Assistant Stage Manager on last season's production of *The Prom*. Recent ASM credits include *The Kittie Knox Plays* (Plays in Place), *A Man of No Importance* (SpeakEasy Stage Company), and *Aida* (Boston Lyric Opera). Jolie also worked as a Part-Time Stage Manager for *Blue Man Group* Boston for 2 years until the show closed in July of 2025. She holds a BFA in Stage Management from Boston.

Jon Goldberg (Music Director) has been at Wheelock Family Theatre since 1995 including recent productions of *SpongeBob*, *Little Women*, *Ragtime*, and *Billy Elliot*. Jon was also music director for the Wheelock Family Theatre Teen Ensemble's *Lightning Thief* and *Head Over Heels*. At Emerson College (musical theatre faculty), recent credits include *Amour*, *Bat Boy*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Into The Woods*, *Urinetown* and *Titanic*. Jon won IRNE awards for Lyric Stage productions of *A Little Night Music*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate* and *Grey Gardens*. Additionally, *Forever Plaid* (Stuart Street Playhouse), *Pacific Overtures* (NSMT), and three years with the Boston company of *Nonsense*. Next up, *Sweet Charity* at Emerson in April.



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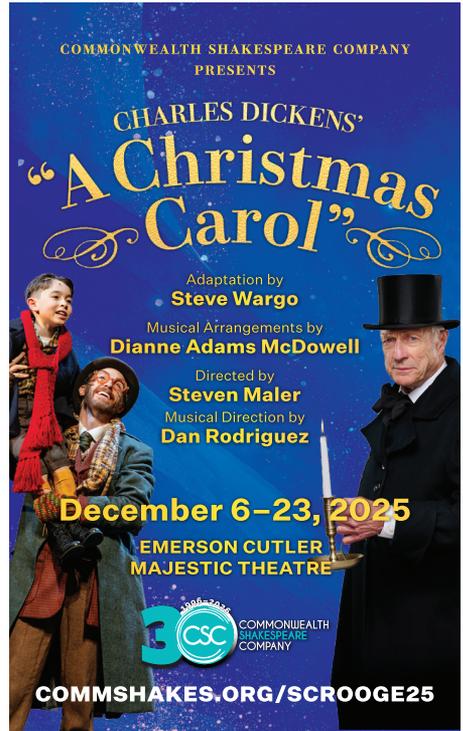
WHO'S WHO – Creative & Production Team

Takiyah "Taki" Harris (Director of Artistic Sign Language) is an artist, motivator, engaging speaker, and art educator. They have worked at various Broadway theaters (Arts Emerson, Wheelock Family Theatre, Citizens Opera House, A.R.T company) to support American Sign Language interpreters for a year and a half. Taki is involved in the community arts in the Boston area, volunteering to work at the museums as ASL tours and provide art workshops. I am grateful to have a fantastic American Sign Language interpreter team to work with Wheelock Family Theatre.

Cassie Heath (ASL Interpreter) is honored to be a part of the *Annie* interpreting team! Cassie graduated from Texas State University in 2019 with a BA in Theatre and went on to receive her certificate in ASL Interpretation with high honors from Northern Essex Community College in 2023. This is her seventh show with Wheelock Family Theatre, and she is incredibly grateful to the access team for making each show a wonderful experience. Many thanks to Taki, Todd, Erin, Jordan, Jamie, The Wheelock Family Theatre, and her amazingly supportive family, friends, partner, and mentors!

Lisa Kate Joyce (Associate Director) is delighted to return to Wheelock Family Theatre as a member of the Artistic Team of *Annie*! You may have seen her around Wheelock Family Theatre teaching for the excellent education program or performing on the mainstage (*The SpongeBob Musical*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Make Way For Ducklings: The Musical*, *Roald Dahl's Matilda*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*). At her core, she is a storyteller. At heart, she is a teacher devoted to inspiring the next generation of artists. Knock em' dead, orphans!

Ruth Kahn (In- Show Audio Describer) is passionate about the convergence of arts, equity, inclusion, disability, and accessibility. As an audio describer for more than 20 years, Ruth has describe the on-stage action of theater performances live for blind and visually impaired patrons for productions at Wheelock Family Theatre, Huntington Theatre, ArtsEmerson, Broadway in Boston,



Moonbox, Harvard Dance Center, the Boston Dance Alliance, SpeakEasy, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Axis Dance, and The Weston Playhouse in Vermont. Ruth collaborated with Our Space Our Place and the Tony Williams Dance Studio at a virtual, week-long workshop for blind and visually impaired participants. Ruth is thrilled to be audio describing at Wheelock Family Theatre.

Mikey Rose (Blind Consultant) -they/them- is a Black/queer low-vision audio describer and blind user expert. They have a background in the performing arts and a bachelors in social work. Over the past year, Mikey has been rediscovering their love of theater through a new lens - pair passion with expertise. Mx. Rose has worked production companies across the city of Boston and beyond working on show including - *A Christmas Carol*, *Ain't No Mo* and *Prom*. Mikey is steady building a vast portfolio of work.

WHO'S WHO – Creative & Production Team

Erin McCathy (ASL Interpreter) is thrilled to be interpreting one of her favorite childhood stories, "Annie." This is her second show with Wheelock Family Theatre, having previously interpreted "The Wizard of Oz." She has also interpreted with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, the Huntington, Hanover Theater in Worcester, Open Door Theater of Acton, and Live Nation concerts at various venues. During the day, Erin can be found working at The Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, and spending free time with her wife and their three pets. Big thanks to Taki for the opportunity to join this incredible team!

Chloe Moore (Costume Designer) is a Boston-based Designer and Educator for Opera, Theatre and Dance. Design credits (*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*) and (*Cabaret*) Emerson Stage, (*L'Etoile*), (*Voir Dire*), (*L'île de Tulipatan*) and (*As One*) with Boston Conservatory at Berklee Opera, and (OTP) at Boston Playwrights Theatre. In productions with the American Repertory Theatre, Central Square Theater, Boston Early Music Festival, BU's School of Theatre & Opera Institute, Boston Opera Collaborative, and as a part of the Berkshire Fringe Festival. Since earning a Costume Design MFA she is Faculty at Emerson College, Boston University and Shenandoah University, Costume Staff at American Players Theatre.

Todd Schulbaum (ASL Interpreter) is a Deaf, queer, nonbinary aspiring mental health counselor who has a passion for theater and the arts. They have been involved in a number of shows including *Mary Poppins*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *South Pacific*. Their favorite role they played was Tom in *Schoolhouse Rock*. They are very excited to get back to their theater roots with *Annie*. In their spare time, they enjoy being a cat parent to three wild girls, reading, pop music, watching movies, and telling people random pop culture facts.

Sarabeth Spector (Props Designer) -she/her- Credits include: *The Spitfire Grill* (Assistant Scenic Designer, The Umbrella); *I Love XXX* (Props Designer, Emerson Stage); *Where We Belong* (Props Designer, The

Umbrella); *A Christmas Carol* (Props Designer, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *Holy Chicken Sandwich* (Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *Mermaid Hour* (Assistant Scenic Designer, Props Designer; Moonbox Productions); *Cost of Living* (Props Designer, SPEAKEASY STAGE); *Legally Blonde* (Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *Honeyhole* (Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *Jado Jihad* (Props Designer, Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *For The Fish* (Associate Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *NIGHTTOWN* (Scenic Designer, Lowell House Opera); *Baltimore* (Scenic Designer, Emerson Stage) sarabethspector.com

Lisette van den Boogaard* (Production Stage Manager) Lisette is thrilled to be making their Wheelock Family Theatre debut with this production of *Annie*! Other credits include: Lyric Stage: Art. Actors Shakespeare Project: *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Emma*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *How I Learned to*

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Nick Vargas (Director) - he/him/his - is the Executive Director of Wheelock Family Theatre, greater Boston's home for professional, intergenerational theatre. He leads the strategic vision for the organization, advancing its artistic, educational, and social justice mission. A director and educator, in his 9-years at Wheelock Family Theatre, Nick has helmed numerous productions at Wheelock Family Theatre that reflect its commitment to storytelling that fosters creativity, empathy, and equity, most recently last season's *The SpongeBob Musical*, which received 4 Eliot Norton nominations. Nick previously served as Wheelock Family Theatre's Interim Artistic Director and Associate Artistic & Education Director. Before joining Wheelock Family Theatre, he worked at Imagination Stage in

Bethesda, MD, one of the nation's leading theatres for youth & family audiences. He currently serves on the Board of TYA/USA and holds a BA in Theatre Education and Directing from Emerson College and an MBA in Social Impact with a concentration in Leadership and Organizational Transformation from Boston University's Questrom School of Business.

Jordan Whitlow (ASL Interpreter) -they/ them- is thrilled to be joining this incredible team for *Annie!* They are excited to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre after interpreting *Leonardo!*, *The Prom*, and *The Spongebob Musical*. Their other theatre interpreting credits include Broadway in Boston (*Back to the Future, Peter Pan, Mamma Mia, Moulin Rouge, Beetlejuice, Hairspray*), the Huntington (*Prayer for the French Republic, Witch*), Plays in Place (*Revolution's Edge, Light Under the Dome*), and the A.R.T. (*Gloria: A Life*). Taki, Todd, Cassie, and Erin you guys are the best and I can't wait to tell this story with you all!

*Member of Actor's Equity Association

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