WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

NOV 14 – DEC 13, 2026

Disney · PIXAR

FINDING NEMO



©Disney/Pixar

A 60-MINUTE FAMILY MUSICAL

Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez**

Book Adapted by **Lindsay Anderson**

Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by **Myrna Conn**

Directed by **Nick Vargas**

Music Direction by **Jordan Oczkowski**

Choreography by **Hannah Shihdanian**





Based on the Based on the 2003 Disney / Pixar film *Finding Nemo* written by Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds and directed by Andrew Stanton

Bravo to the cast and crew of Finding Nemo!

The Cambridge School of Weston (CSW) celebrates your talent, dedication, and artistry.



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November/December 2026

A Note From Nick Vargas



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Wheelock Family Theatre's production of Disney & Pixar's *Finding Nemo*. I've loved this film for years, and directing the musical has given me a chance to discover it again. One of my favorite things about sharing it with it with intergenerational audiences is that we can laugh at the same moment and root for different fish. A child might be thinking, "Let him try!" while the person who brought them is thinking, "I know exactly why his dad is worried."

That's a big part of why I wanted to tell this story at Wheelock right now. Children are finding their way in a world that can feel uncertain, and the adults who love them are figuring out when to step in and when to give them room. Seeing Nemo and Marlin navigate that together can help us understand what it feels like on both sides. And there's hope in watching Marlin, who wants so badly to have everything figured out, take the next step with help from a fish he never would have thought to ask.

That feels like the right place to begin our 46th season, The Courage to Begin. I see that theme play out in our rehearsal room, where student performers and professional artists make theatre together. Offering an idea when you're unsure how it will land can feel like a risk. It makes a difference when someone says, "Let's try it."

At the end of each rehearsal, we give out what we call "bubbles." A bubble is a compliment, big or small, for something a castmate did that day or something we accomplished together. It can be as simple as saying, "I saw how you showed up, and it mattered." That gives the person who hears it a little lift and helps the rest of us notice something we might have missed.

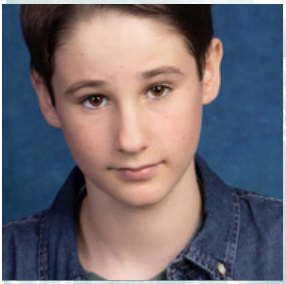
You can give someone a bubble anywhere. A child might say to a grown-up, "Thanks for letting me do that on my own." A grown-up might say, "I saw you stick with that, even when it got hard." Hearing that someone paid attention can make it a little easier to take the next chance. Whether you're here with family, friends, or classmates, thank you for opening the season with us. I hope you laugh, get a little swept up in the ocean, and talk on the way home about a time someone helped you find the courage to try something new. If that person is beside you, you might give them a bubble.

With gratitude,

Nick Vargas
Executive Director
Wheelock Family Theatre

MEET the CAST

Disney · PIXAR
FINDING NEMO
A 60-MINUTE FAMILY MUSICAL


Sam Belknap


Alexander Boyle


Molly Brown


Dziko Caplan


Joy Clark*


Drew Factor


Brynn Kilgore


Allie Knupp


Kiko Laureano*



Andrea Leonarte



Maria Isabel Espinal Lopez



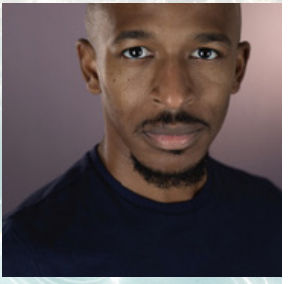
Ruby Mark



Bella Rose Nevin



Gray Oliveira



Darren Paul



Chip Phillips*



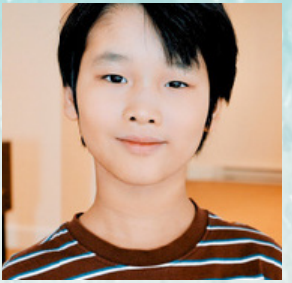
Carolyn Saxon*



Nicholas Shay



Jared Troilo*



Herman Xu

MUSICAL PROGRAM

Prologue . . . . . Ensemble
Big Blue World (P.t 1) . . . . . Marlin, Nemo
Big Blue World (Pt. 2) . . . . . Nemo, Marlin, Reef Kids, Prof. Ray, Reef Parents, Ensemble
The Drop-Off . . . . . Professor Ray, Reef Kids
Abduction/ Big Blue World (Reprise) . . . . . Marlin, Nemo
Dory's Ditty . . . . . Dory
Fish Are Friends Not Food . . . . . Bruce, Chum, Anchor
Where's My Dad? . . . . . Nemo
We Swim Together . . . . . Gill, Gurgle, Peach, Bloat, Nemo
Just Keep Swimming (Pt. 1) . . . . . Dory, Marlin
Just Keep Swimming (Pt. 2) . . . . . Moonfish, Marlin, Dory, Jellyfish
Not My Dad . . . . . Nemo
Go With the Flow . . . . . Sea Turtles, Dory, Squirt, Crush, Marlin
One Dedicated Father . . . . . Ensemble
That's My Dad . . . . . Nemo
We Swim Together (Reprise) . . . . . Gill, Gurgle, Peach, Bloat, Nemo
Just Keep Swimming Together . . . . . Marlin, Nemo, Dory, Moonfish
Finale (Pt. 2) . . . . . Marlin, Dory, Nemo, Professor Ray, Reef Kids, Reef Parents, Ensemble



FINDING NEMO

Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez**
Book Adapted by **Lindsay Anderson**
Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by **Myrna Conn**

Director
Nick Vargas

Music Director
Jordan Oczkowski

Choreographer
Hannah Shihdanian

Scenic Designer
James Rotondo**

Lighting Designer
Hope Debelius

Props Designer
Amanda Gibson

Sound Designer
Irene Wang

Associate Director
Kate Sheridan

Costume Designer
Eric Tâm Tran

Assistant Stage Manager
Becca Cottrell*

Stage Manager
Fanni Horváth*

Assistant Stage Manager
Anika Nayak

THE CAST

In alphabetical order by last name

Understudy Crush/et al & Marlin et/al	**Ohad Ashkenazi**
Tad & Ensemble	**Sam Belknap**
Chum/Crush & Ensemble	**Alexander Boyle**
Anchor/Nigel & Ensemble	**Molly Brown**
Moonfish & Ensemble	**Dziko Caplan**
Dory	**Joy Clark***
Understudy, Tad, Reef Kid & Moonfish	**Josie Mishelle Dixon**
Moonfish	**Drew Factor**
Understudy, Moonfish	**Haven Foley**
Understudy, Pearl & Sheldon	**Katelyn Germak**
Understudy, Reef Kid	**Livvy Hoglund**
Moonfish	**Brynn Kilgore**
Gurgle	**Allie Knupp**
Coral, Bloat/Understudy, Dory	**Kiko Laureano***
Moonfish/Understudy, Gurgle	**Andrea Leonarte**
Pearl	**Maria Isabel Espinal Lopez**
Reef Kid	**Ruby Mark**
Reef Kid, Ensemble & Understudy Squirt	**Bella Rose Nevin**
Sheldon/Understudy, Nemo	**Gray Oliveira**
Bruce & Ensemble	**Darren Paul**
Understudy Prof Ray, Anchor, Coral/et al	**Sydney W. Peterson**
Gill & Ensemble	**Chip Phillips***
Professor Ray & Peach	**Carolyn Saxon***
Squirt & Ensemble	**Nicholas Shay**
Understudy, Gill & Bruce et al.	**Ivis Tostes**
Marlin	**Jared Troilo***
Nemo	**Herman Xu**

*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 Assoction. The contract used is a Letter of Agreement. **Member of United Scenic Artists 829

WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

In alphaetical order by last name

STAFF

Assistant Director of Audience Services	**Jamie Aznive**
Director of Education	**Jeri Hammond**
Education Program Manager	**Erin Kearney**
Technical Director	**Ben Lieberson**
Director of Finance and Administration	**Deborah Rosenstein**
Executive Director	**Nick Vargas**
Production Manager	**Steve Vieira**
Marketing & Communications Manager	**Bonnie VosWinkel**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Associate Sound Designer	**Kai Bohlman**
Deck Captain	**Fionn d'Anjou**
Youth Supervisor	**Elizabeth Finlayson**
Production Observer	**Nathan Horowitz**
Scenic Charge Artist	**Maggie Kearnan**
Wardrobe Assistant	**Heidi Keithahn**
Front of House & Access Coordinator	**Noah Leikind**
Stage Manager Intern	**Elisa Longhini Xavier**
Production Electrician	**Nate Morrissey**
Puppet Consultant	**Sarah Nolen**
Youth Supervisor	**Beth Peters**
A1 / Audio Engineer	**Bekah Rudinec**
Box Office & Concessions Coordinator	**Malak Taoujni**
Deck Electrician / A2	**Gwen Trueblood**
Assoc. Cost. Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor	**Marissa Wolf**

ACCESS TEAM

Access Coordinator	**Jamie Aznive**
Open Caption Formatter/ Social Story	**Alyse Clinton**
In-Show Audio Describer	**Cori Couture**
Director of Artistic Sign Language	**Takiyah "Taki" Harris**
ASL Interpreter	**Cassie Heath**
Pre-Show Audio Describer	**Ruth C. Kahn**
ASL Interpreter	**Jess Meyer**
Blind Consultant	**Mikey Rose**
ASL Interpreter	**Todd Schulbaum**
ASL Feed Interpreter	**Jordan Whitlow**

SPECIAL THANKS

Art & Soul, John Amend, Lynne Allen, Lissa Cramer and the staff of the Boston University Art Galleries, Demi Dicarlo, Darren Evans, Elena Harris, Bithiah Holton, Sanjeev Joshi, Erin Markham, Brian Masters, Jacob Nail, Lily Odekirk and Emerson student partners, Eliott Purcell, Kiran Raza, Franklin Romero & Fenway BU Facilities Team, Megan Sandberg-Zakin, Adam Smith, Savannah Walther, Nicole Wendl, Harvey Young, BU School of Theatre Scene Shop, College of Fine Arts Staff & Faculty.

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

WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

ADVISORY BOARD

Gracie Brakeman, Maggie Gold Seelig, Alison Hall, Liveda Johnson, Susan Kosoff (Founder Emeritus), Lesley Ryan Miller, Holly Oh, Whitney Sandford, Rudina Seseri (Chair), Jane Stabb (Founder Emeritus), Jerry Wheelock, and Harvey Young.

WORK STUDY STUDENTS AND INTERNS

Monica Chen, Roberto Colotl Miron, Jeremy Cronenberg, Aniya Hayes, Kristina Hill, Jaden Huang, Phoenix Huntsberry, Jessica Jara, Ethan Lee, Ceyda Lenio, Athea Lewis, Maggie Lim, Juliet Malherbe, Kathy Mao, Stephanie Mutuku, Bea Perkins, Patrick Phanichyakarn, Wyatt Proctor, Diana Quach, Beau Rehm, Ella Vogel, Baylee Wheelock, Chloe Yang, Ren Zdral.

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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.

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

Tickets & Subscriptions	(617)353-3001	WFTtix@bu.edu
Group Sales	(617)353-1451	WFTgroup@bu.edu
Classes	(617)353-2994	WFTed@bu.edu
Casting	(617)353-1783	WFTcast@bu.edu
Contributions	(617)353-3345	BBarclay@bu.edu

WHO'S WHO – Cast

Ohad Ashkenazi (Understudy Crush & Marlin et/al) Lyric Stage: *Something Rotten!* (Nigel Bottom). The Treehouse Collective: *The Ballad Of Little Jo.* Moonbox Productions: *The Thanksgiving Play* (Caden), *Fangirl*. HaSimta Theater: *HaPundak* (Shawn). Film & Television: *Shkufim* (Invisible People), *Od Sipur Echad* (One More Story). Recording & Voiceover: S*how Me, It's Not You - It's Me, Music Kreation II, Shkufim, Shababnikim.* Ohad is an Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music. Much love to my family for their endless support! Website: Ohadmusic.com, Instagram: @ohadashkenaz

Sam Belknap (Tad & Ensemble) is a 7th grader in Groton, and this is his first production with Wheelock Family Theatre. Sam was most recently in Matilda with KOTA Productions in New York City, and he has performed in A Christmas Carol at the Palace Theater in NH and Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell. Sam is a proud company member at Studio Rhythm Dance Center and a student at the Berklee Preparatory Academy, where he majors in dance. When Sam is not rehearsing, he loves to play with his three kitties, Roxie, Nova, and Petunia.

Alexander Boyle (Chum/Crush & Ensemble) is incredibly excited to be back at WFT after performing in the ensemble and understudying the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. Previous: Mark Cohen in *RENT*, Billy Cane in *Bright Star*, Bobby in *Urinetown* (Mass Arts Center); Tunny in *American Idiot*, Tobey in *Octet* (The Wilbury Theatre Group); Brad Majors in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* (Moonbox Productions); Man #1 in *Now. Here. This.*, Will Bloom in *Big Fish* (Umbrella Stage Company). Cowabunga, dude! Love, light, and gratitude to family and friends.

Molly Brown (Anchor/Nigel & Ensemble) -she/her- is excited to be swimming in the great big blue with this fin-tastic team! A New York native, she now calls Boston home. A graduate of Wagner College with a BA in Theater Performance, she recently completed her Master's in Social Work at Fordham University. Previous professional credits include *The Music Man, A Christmas Carol* (Westchester Broadway Theater), *Rent* (Nashville Rep), *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Williamson County Performing Arts Center), and *White Elephant* (World Premiere). When not on stage, Molly works as a teaching artist throughout the Boston area. Give her a follow @MollyAdeleBrown

Dziko Caplan (Moonfish & Ensemble) is a theater major at Boston Arts Academy and a frequent participant in Wheelock Family Theater Education performances. His Wheelock credits include Donkey in *Shrek the Musical*, SpongeBob in *SpongeBob the Musical*, and Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid.* Dziko dances hip hop, plays the drums, and was named a 2024 Outward Bound USA/Bronco Wild Fund Alumni of the Year. *Finding Nemo* marks Dziko's first mainstage production at Wheelock.

Joy Clark* (Dory) WFT: *Beauty and the Beast.* New England Credits Include Lyric Stage Co: *Something Rotten!* (Nostradamus) *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet), *Hello, Dolly!*. NSMT: *A Christmas Carol* (Belle), *Peter Pan, Young Frank*... Moonbox: *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *Cabaret* (Fraulein Kost, IRNE nom.). Reagle: *The Little Mermaid, Pippin, Show Boat* (Ellie), *Crazy For You* (Patricia Fodor). Training: MFA, Boston Conservatory. Teaching: Boston Dance Studios, Musical Theatre Faculty at Emerson College, the Boston Conservatory, and Boston College. Creative: Joy is a Boston-based choreographer. Rep: Fire Starter Entertainment. Cats: Billy and Twinkle. Proud member of AEA. For Mama Clark. Socials @joydclark, www.joy-clark.com

Josie Mishelle Dixon (Understudy, Tad, Reef Kid & Moonfish) is thrilled to return to Wheelock Family Theatre! Previous credits include: *Annie* (Orphan, Pepper U/S) and *Charlotte's Web* (Gosling, Baby Spider) at WFT; *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Nemo), *Frozen Jr. (*Young Anna), and *Junie B. Jones Kids* (Camille) with Blue Forest

WHO'S WHO – Cast

Theatre Academy. Additional credits include *Matilda Jr., Newsies Jr.,* and *Elf Jr.* Her screen work includes a leading role in a television commercial. Josie is currently studying theatre through Berklee's City Music Prep Program. She sends love and thanks to her siblings, parents, & friends for their support!

Drew Factor (Moonfish) is in seventh grade at Hanover Middle School. He is thrilled to be making his Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Some of Drew's favorite past roles include: Beetlejuice in *Beetlejuice Jr.*, Peter Pan in *Peter Pan Jr.*, and the Cat in the Hat in *Seussical the Musical Jr.* Drew would like to thank his family and friends for all of their love and support.

Haven Foley (Understudy, Moonfish) is super excited to make her WFT debut! She is currently a junior Theatre major at Boston Arts Academy Regional Theatre: South Stage Theatre Works (*Community Garden, A Doll's House, Steel Magnolias*). Educational Theatre: Boston Arts Academy (*Pippin, Gloria*). Other credits: *Mean Girls* (Cady), I*nto the Woods Jr.* (Little Red). She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their constant support. @_havenfoley

Grades Pre K – 12

Take Classes With Us!

WFT Education Program: Winter & Spring weekends, School Vacation weeks, Summer classes and more!



View current offerings and upcoming classes here!

Katelyn Germak (Understudy, Pearl & Sheldon) is thrilled to be making her Wheelock Family Theatre debut! Some of her favorite past roles include Cindy Lou Who in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Jr.* (Wellesley Theatre Project), Baloo in The *Jungle Book Kids* (Wellesley Theatre Project), Katherine Plumber in *Newsies, Jr.* (CHS), and Anna in *Frozen, Jr.* (CHS). She is thankful for all the love and support from her family and friends, her vocal coaches (Hannah Torp, Eva Kendrick), and her acting coach (Jen Salvucci).

Livvy Hoglund (Understudy, Reef Kid) is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Schofield School (Wellesley). She is thrilled to be a Reef Kid in *Finding Nemo*. She's performed in productions with Wellesley Theatre Project, including: *Finding Nemo* (Gurgle), *Aristocats* (Duchess), *Frozen* (Elsa), *Seussical* (Sour Kangaroo), *The Jungle Book* (Bagheera), *101 Dalmatians* (Cruella). Livvy would like to thank her parents, grandparents, siblings Ellie, Tessa, and Drew, as well as her teachers and friends at WTP & WFT for all their support. Livvy's first introduction to Wheelock Family Theatre was as a baby watching her older sisters perform as Baby Spiders in Charlotte's Web (Spring, 2017).

Brynn Kilgore (Moonfish) recently performed in Wheelock's teen show as the Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical* and is so excited to join the cast of *Nemo*. Brynn loves singing and this year placed first in New England for Musical Theater Youth at NATS and went to Nationals in Texas. Last year she was nominated for a DASH ward for Small Alison in *Fun Home* at the Burlington Players. Other favorites include: Jane Seymour, Wednesday Addams, Belle, Junie B. Jones, and Maleficent. Brynn's a proud member of the Wellesley Theatre Project IMACT! company and can't wait to go to the Junior Theater Festival this January!

WHO'S WHO – Cast

Allie Knupp (Gurgle) is so excited to return to Wheelock Family Theatre in *Finding Nemo*! She is a sophomore who has loved performing for as long as she can remember. Some of her favorite roles include Elsa in *Frozen Jr.*, Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde Jr.*, Cady in *Mean Girls Jr.*, Mona in *Chicago: Teen Edition*, and Cecile in *Annie*. Allie would like to thank her Mom, Dad, Haley, and voice teacher Isabel for their endless support. She is grateful to be part of this amazing cast and hopes you have as much fun watching Finding Nemo as she has performing it!

Kiko Laureano* (Coral, Bloat/ Understudy, Dory) is a local actress based in Boston, MA. She holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Indiana University. Recent credits: North Shore Music Theatre: *Seussical*. Guthrie Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors, A Christmas Carol, Romeo and Juliet*. Children's Theatre Company: *An American Tail*. Mixed Blood Theatre: *Autonomy*. Park Square Theatre: *Between Riverside and Crazy*. Theatre Mu: *50 Boxes of Earth*. History Theatre: *I Am Betty, Runestone*! *A Rock Musical*. Lyric Arts of Anoka: *Something Rotten, The Revolutionists, Evita*. Minnetonka Theatre: *Joseph…Dreamcoat*. Website: kikolaureano.com

Andrea Leonarte (Moonfish/ Understudy, Gurgle) from Revere, Massachusetts, is thrilled to make her Wheelock Family Theatre debut in *Finding Nemo*! A freshman at Revere High School, Andrea has a lifelong passion for the stage. Some of her favorite past roles include Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Ellie Blake in *Freaky Friday*, Fiona in *Shrek Jr.*, and Cinderella in *Into the Woods Jr.* Offstage, she loves singing, playing piano and guitar at ZUMIX, and dancing at RFAPA. She is deeply grateful to her family, friends, and mentors for their unwavering support.

Maria Isabel Espinal Lopez (Pearl) is 13 and loves spending time with her family and playing sports, especially volleyball. She previously performed at Wheelock Family Theatre as the understudy for Fern in Charlotte's Web. She was also part of the ensemble in Lawrence High School's Tarzan the Musical, whose production received Best Overall Performance at the METG festival. Maria is excited to return to WFT as Pearl in Finding Nemo. Fun fact: she is from the Dominican Republic.

Ruby Mark (Reef Kid) is thrilled to return to Wheelock Family Theatre, where she previously appeared as an understudy for the youth ensemble in *Annie*. Her other recent credits include Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* with GBSC and Wally Webb in *Our Town* at Portland Stage. Ruby studies voice with Alexandra Reyna at The Bloch Studio and jazz dance at DB Studios. She loves musical theater, bringing characters to life on stage, and sharing her love of performing with others. Ruby thanks her family for their continued love and support! @rubyvmark

Bella Rose Nevin (Reef Kid, Ensemble & Understudy Squirt) -she/her- is so happy to return to WFT, and this time with her Mom (the Choreographer)! Bella performed as an orphan in *Annie* last season. She's in 5th Grade at Hosmer Elementary. She takes dance at A Fine Dance Studio in Needham, plays soccer, basketball, and loves to read! Other credits include *Annie* with Greater Boston Stage Company, *Annie* with Sullivan Repertory, and she has performed with Artbarn Community Theatre and Wellesley Theatre Project.

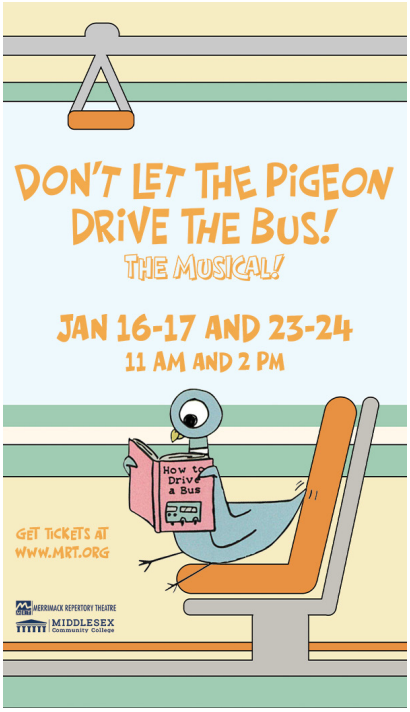
Gray Oliveira (Sheldon/Understudy, Nemo) is thrilled to be back on the Wheelock stage! Previous credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Mole), *Annie* (Ensemble), and *Charlotte's Web* (Avery) at Wheelock Family Theatre, along with several productions at Artbarn Community Theater in Brookline. He also had the opportunity to play Dean in *All Shook Up* as part of Broadway workshop. Gray sends a big thank you to his family and wonderful voice and acting coaches for their endless support. Offstage, you can find him playing video games, watching the Red Sox or hanging out with his two beloved bulldogs! @gray.oliveira23

WHO'S WHO – Cast

Darren Paul (Bruce & Ensemble) Wheelock debut, his other credits include: Newton Theatre Company: *Parade* (Newt Lee/Jim Conley/Riley), *Traveling Shoes* (Everett) Christian David Productions, Umbrella Stage Company: *Hairspray* (Ensemble), Multicultural Arts Center: *Stokely & Martin* (Stokely), Front Porch: *Cubamor* (Lazaro), *Holiday Feast* (Actor), *Stew* (Ken). Lyric Stage: *Our Town* (Constable Warren/ Wally), *Urinetown* (Hot Blades Harry), *Assassins* (Ensemble). GBSC: *Guys & Dolls* (Harry The Horse), Sight & Sound Theatres: *JESUS* (James The Less/Simon The Zealot). He is grateful for the encouragement and support of friends and family, and a special thanks to his wife, Misarline. Glory to God.

Sydney W. Peterson (Understudy, Prof. Ray, Anchor, Coral/et al) is thrilled to be making her debut at Wheelock Family Theatre. This show holds a special place in her heart. Sydney is a singer, dancer, actor, and choreographer based in greater Boston. Recent performances: Ensemble/ Dance Captain for *Hairspray* (Umbrella Stage Company), Janet Van DerGraaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Cotuit Center for the Arts), and *The Rocky Horror Show, The Sound of Music, The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (The Company Theatre). A graduate of Chicago College of Performing Arts, receiving a BFA in Musical Theatre. She is grateful to her parents, family & friends. IG: peterson_ _ syd; sydneywpeterson.com

Chip Phillips* (Gill & Ensemble) is delighted to be back at Wheelock, where he has appeared in *Annie, Anne of Green Gables, and Beauty and the Beast*. Local credits include *Noises Off, The Gig, She Loves Me* (Lyric Stage); *Guys and Dolls, Titanish* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *The Front Page* (Merrimack Repertory Company); *Off-Season, Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill* (Gloucester Stage Company); and *Hairspray* (Umbrella Stage). Off-Broadway, Chip was seen in *Machiavelli* (Arclight Theatre), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Westside Theatre), and *Perfect Crime* (Snapple Theatre). Regionally, he's performed in



Falsettos, 1776, Sleuth, A Tuna Christmas, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs.*

Carolyn Saxon* (Professor Ray & Peach) WFT: *Peter & The Wolf, Ragtime, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka.* Broadway/Bway National Tours/NY Theatre: *Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk, The Civil War,* Encores/City Center: *Purlie, Hair, Can-Can,* Duke Theater: *Timmy the Great,* Carnegie Hall/Gershwin Theater: *Linda Eder: The Christmas Concert*; The NYC Fringe Festival, NYMF. Regional: Papermill Playhouse NJ, Alliance Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Connecticut Rep, North Shore Music Theatre, Studio Arena Theatre, Weston Playhouse, Struthers Library Theatre, Central Square Theater, Revels @ Sanders Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage, Greater Boston Stage Company, Lyric Stage Company, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Umbrella Stage Company, New Repertory, Emerson Paramount.

WHO'S WHO – Cast + Creative & Production Team

Nicholas Shay (Squirt & Ensemble) is delighted to be making his Wheelock Family Theatre debut. Favorite roles: Lollipop Guild in North Shore Music Theater's *Wizard of Oz,* Boy Scrooge in NSMT's *A Christmas Carol*, Tiny Tim in Trinity Rep's *A Christmas Carol*, and Peter Pan in Ensemble Performing Arts Studio's *Peter Pan*. When not on stage, Nicholas enjoys reading, writing, cross-country, and being a part of Scouting America. Thanks to Mom (for all the driving), Dad (for all the bad dad jokes), and Molly (for leading the way!) Special thanks to Joslyn Carter, Cailin Dyke Kelly, and Eva Kendrick for teaching him so much.

Jared Troilo* (Marlin) WFT credits: *Billy Elliot, Beauty and the Beast, Little Women, James and the Giant Peach, and Make Way For Ducklings*. Other credits include The Huntington, Speakeasy Stage, Lyric Stage, Moonbox Productions, Reagle Music Theatre, Commonwealth Shakespeare, Palace Theatre, Greater Boston Stage, Winter Park Playhouse, Shadowland Stages, Umbrella Stage, TigerLion Arts, Company Theatre, and The Barnstormers. TV/Film: *About Fate* (Amazon), *Across The Pacific* (PBS) Awards: IRNE Award Winner (*She Loves Me*), Elliot Norton Award Nominee (*The Last Five Years, A Gentleman's Guide…Murder, Oklahoma!, The Band's Visit*). Education: The Boston Conservatory. JaredTroilo.com. Love to Kira and Jonah. For Levi.

Herman Xu (Nemo) is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Milton Academy and is thrilled to play Nemo at Wheelock Family Theatre. An actor and musician, he has performed in over a dozen musicals with companies including Wheelock Family Theatre, Wellesley Theatre Project, and The Footlight Club. He plays piano and violin and is a member of his school jazz ensemble. He is deeply grateful to his family and teachers for their guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support. He hopes that audiences, like Nemo, a small fish in a big blue world, find the courage to begin, trust themselves, and swim toward a wider world.



Creative & Production Team

Becca Cottrell* (Assistant Stage Manager) -they/she- is excited to return to Wheelock Family Theatre as Assistant Stage Manager for *Finding Nemo*! Wheelock Family Theatre Credits: ASM for *Annie*, and *Flora & Ulysses*. Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor for *SpongeBob The Musical*. Congratulations to this incredible team and thank you for all your hard work <3

Hope Debelius (Lighting Designer) - she/her- is a freelance lighting designer based in New York and Boston, and a recent MFA graduate of Boston University's College of Fine Arts. Professional credits include *Two Strangers Carry a Cake Across New York* (Assistant Lighting Designer), The Huntington (Assistant on *The Hills of California, Oedipus El Rey, To Kill a Mockingbird, Eureka Day*), the Pittsburgh Playhouse (Winter Dance Concert),

Baltimore Center Stage (Tiny Beautiful Things- Asst.), Pittsburgh Public Theatre (Murder on the Orient Express- Asst.), City Theatre Company (The Wanderers-Asst.), and the Juilliard School (May Dance-Asst) Website: hopedebelius@gmail.com

Amanda Gibson (Props Designer) is an artist based in Worcester, Massachusetts. She has been working primarily as a puppet maker/restorer as well as scenic builder and prop designer in the world of theater. She has worked on several shows including CHUANG Stage's *My Home on the Moon,* Company One's *Interrobangers* and Wheelock Family Theater's *Flora & Ulysses*. Storytelling has always been a driving force in Amanda's work and a major reason for her study of illustration and later pursuit of the field of puppet building, puppetry, and miniature environment design. Outside of theater, she creates cosplays and portraiture.

Fanni Horváth* (Production Stage Manager) -she/her- is thrilled to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre! She is a Boston-area stage manager who has previously worked at Central Square Theater, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Arts Emerson, Pariah Theatre Company, Harvard's Theater, Dance & Media and South Shore School of Theatre among others. When not in the theater, you will find her "stage managing" in real life as the Administrative Coordinator at Harvard University's Theater, Dance & Media program. She would like to thank her wife, Allison, who is always her biggest supporter! Just keep swimming!

Maggie Kearnan (Scenic Charge Artist) -she/her- is a scenic artist and award winning playwright. She's painted for theater companies and local educational programs all around Massachusetts including Boston College, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Company One, and Gloucester Stage. She holds an MFA in playwriting from Boston University, and teaches at Boston College. She also has a growing following on TikTok, where she shares tips for painting theatrical sets with limited resources.

Elisa Longhini Xavier (Stage Manager Intern) -she/her- is a Stage Management student at Boston University, and she is so excited to be diving into her first show with Wheelock Family Theater. Recently, she has worked with Stage Left Children's Theater as their Administrative Assistant. Previous management credits include *Islander, Antigone, Clue, Disney's Freaky Friday, Chicago, Mean Girls, Puffs, Matilda, She Kills Monsters, and Legally Blonde*. She would like to extend her gratitude to the amazing management team for guiding her through this experience. @elisa_lx_

Anika Nayak (Assistant StageManager) -she/they- is a Boston based Stage Manager and Teaching Artist. Anika focuses on creating non hierarchical and collaborative spaces in which theater and art can be created and experienced as what she believes is at its core, a universal language of being. Their work has taken them the East Coast as well as internationally to Ramallah (Palestine), Cape Town (South Africa), Maputo (Mozambique), Karachi (Pakistan), and Kolkata (India). Additionally, Anika is an Artistic Director of a teen theatre program in Pelham, NH. She is always thrilled to be back with the WFT team!

Sarah Nolen (Puppet Consultant) is a puppeteer and puppet builder for stage and screen, infusing versatile, imaginative puppetry into any space she can. She performs her own original shows for youth and family audiences, and teaches puppet workshops to all ages. Most recently, Sarah directed the puppet production *FERAL* by Sandglass Theater, performed a puppet in the Netflix film *DON'T LOOK UP* (2021), fabricated shadow puppets for A.R.T's *The Odyssey* (2025), and premiered a new original touring show, *PARTY ANIMALS* in 2025 with music by Phil Berman. She is thrilled to be a part of Wheelock's Finding Nemo production.

Jordan Oczkowski (Music Director) -he/him- is thrilled to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre for *Finding Nemo*! Some of his recent credits include: *The Prom* @

Wheelock Family Theatre, *Hadestown: Teen Edition* @ The Young Company at Greater Boston Stage Company, *Tick Tick...BOOM!* @ Umbrella Arts (Elliot Norton Nomination for Outstanding Music Direction) and *Hairspray* @ Umbrella Arts. When not music directing, Jordan is a general music and chorus teacher at The Learning Project Elementary School. Jordan would like to thank his friends, family, and his girlfriend for their continuous love and support!

James Rotondo (Scenic Designer)** -he/him- is excited to be back at Wheelock after designing *The Prom, The Addams Family, Make Way for Ducklings, and Willy Wonka*. His designs have been seen from coast to coast across North America, from Prescott Park in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Pacific Opera Victoria in Victoria, BC, Canada. Recent productions include *Cosí and Robin Hood* (Glimmerglass Festival), *Pagliacci* (Minnesota Opera), *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Pacific Opera Victoria), and *Freaky Friday* (Prescott Park Arts Festival). Upcoming productions include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Chicago Opera Theater), *Into the Woods, Rusalka, and The Little Prince* (Glimmerglass Festival). www.jamesrotondo.design

Kate Sheridan (Associate Director) -she/her- is thrilled to be back at WFT and working with these spectacular student performers after going under the sea in *SpongeBob* (Mayor/ Ensemble) and to NYC in *Annie* (u/s Miss Hannigan). She has performed (*The Wild Party, Sister Act*) and directed (*American Idiot, Forever Plaid*) at Seacoast Repertory Theatre and taught at Reagle Music Theatre, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Hanover Theatre Conservatory, and more. M.A. in Educational Theatre, NYU Steinhardt. anks to Nick, Hannah, Jordan & the team for all the fun. For dem babies! @ hellokatesheridan www.hellokatesheridan.me

Hannah Shihdanian (Choreographer) -she/her- is a huge fan of WFT for its values and commitment to telling stories that make a social impact and connect us as humans. She has worked with the A.R.T., Lyric Stage Boston, Greater Boston Stage Co., Reagle Music Theatre, and others. She has directed/choreographed pilot productions for MTI, and has won awards for her work with student performers. She now runs her own dance & fitness community (Hannah's Dance Community). This is a special show because she gets to work with her daughter Bella! Thanks to Nick and the whole WFT team! www.hannahsdancecommunity.com

Eric Tâm Tran (Costume Designer) -he/him- CHUANG Stage: *My Home On The Moon, The Sitayana*. Wheelock Family Theatre: *Finding Nemo*. Film: *Hot Dancing Granny*. Eric is a Boston-based Vietnamese American costume designer, creative, and storyteller. He graduated from Boston University, May 2025 with a BFA in Costume Design and a minor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Tran believes in an elevated, intentional, ethical, and identity driven design approach that leaves an impact on viewers, inspires more conversations and encourages stories to be shared. Additionally, he is passionate about merging environmental consciousness and sustainable methods in his designs. Website: www.erictrandesigns.com

Nick Vargas (Director) -he/him- is thrilled to celebrate ten years at Wheelock Family Theatre by directing this joyful, heartfelt production of *Finding Nemo*. As WFT's Executive Director, he is grateful to work alongside artists of all ages, educators, and staff who carry forward the theatre's 46-year commitment to creating affordable, accessible and inclusive theatre for Greater Boston's children and families. His WFT directing credits include *Stuart Little, Ragtime, Little Women, Walking the Tightrope, The Wizard of Oz, The Addams Family, The SpongeBob Musical*, and last season's *Annie*. Nick previously served as WFT's Interim Artistic Director and Associate Artistic & Education Director. Before joining WFT, he was Casting Director and Artistic Associate at Imagination Stage, a theatre for young



audiences in Bethesda, Maryland. Nick serves on the board of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (TYA/USA). He 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.

Irene Wang (Sound Designer) -she/they- is very excited to be the Sound Designer for Wheelock Family Theater's production of Finding Nemo. She is very excited to be working with this fantastic cast and crew, and wants to give special thanks to all her family and friends in Boston. Currently based out of NYC, you might have recently heard her work as the A1 for Hudson Valley Shakespeare's production of *Les Miserables*, or her design work in The American Mime Theater's production of *How to Put Down the Weight of Your Past*. ig: @irenewangsound

Marissa Wolf (Assoc. Cost. Designer/ Wardrobe Supervisor) is Boston-based wardrobe supervisor, stitcher, and designer, who graduated from Northeastern University's Theater Program with a focus in costume design. Their local credits include productions with Actors' Shakespeare Project, American Repertory Theater, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, and Emerson College. Marissa is thrilled to be serving as Wardrobe Supervisor and Costume Shop Manager at Wheelock Family Theater this season.

Access Team

Cori Couture (In-show Audio Describer) -she/her- is thrilled to be describing her 30th show with WFT! She has provided AD for TV, film, and nearly 150 Boston-area productions, at more than a dozen theatres. Other AD projects include work with WGBH, the Commonwealth of MA, Paramount, NASA, the 9/11 Museum, and Disney Parks. She has been interviewed about AD for podcasts, theatres, educational programs, and online panels. She was awarded a 2023 Creative Individual Grant from the Mass. Cultural Council, and she proudly identifies as a person with a disability. Her one-woman show explored how the arts buoyed her through the challenges of growing up with spina bifida.

Takiyah "Taki" Harris (Director of Artistic Sign Language) -they/them- is an artist, motivator, engaging speaker, and art educator. They have worked at various Broadway theaters (Arts Emerson, Wheelock Family Theater, Citizens Opera House, A.R.T. Company), supporting American Sign Language interpreters for two and a half years. Taki is involved in community arts in the in the Boston area, volunteering at museums as an ASL tour guide and providing art workshops. I am grateful to have a fantastic American Sign Language interpreter team to work with at Wheelock Family Theatre.

Cassie Heath (ASL Interpreter) -she/her- is so excited to be back at Wheelock Family Theater for Finding Nemo! This is her eighth show with Wheelock, and she is so grateful to everyone who makes this stage so wonderful to say yes to over and

over. Thank you to Taki, Jamie, Jess, Todd, and Jordan for making every rehearsal and show the best it can be!

Ruth C. Kahn (In- Show Audio Describer) is passionate aboutthe convergenceof 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 Theatrer.

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.

Jess Meyer (ASL Interpreter) -they/them- is thrilled to be on Finding Nemo interpreting team! Previous interpreting credits: Wheelock Family Theatre (*Charlotte's Web, Leonardo! Prom, A Year With Frog and Toad, SpongeBob, Make Way for Ducklings*), Broadway in Boston (*Les Miserables, Suffs, Kinky Boots, Parade, Funny Girl, Peter Pan, Come From Away*), Huntington (*Fun Home, Nassim*), Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (*As You Like It*), American Repertory Theatre (*Wonder, Two Strangers Carry A Cake Across New York, Becoming A Man*), Open Door Theatre (*Honk!, Prom, SpongeBob, Wizard of Oz*), and Seacoast Repertory Theatre (*Parade*). Thank you to Taki, Todd, Cassie, Jordan, the entire Finding Nemo team!

Todd Schulbaum (ASL Interpreter) is a Deaf, queer, nonbinary aspiring Deaf interpreter who has a passion for theater and the arts. They have been involved in several 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 be back at Wheelock Family Theater after interpreting *Annie* last year. In their spare time, they enjoy being cat arents to three wild girls, reading, pop music, watching movies, and sharing random pop culture facts.

Jordan Whitlow (ASL Feed Interpreter) -they/them- is thrilled to be joining this incredible team for *Finding Nemo*. They are excited to be back at Wheelock after interpreting *Charlotte's Web, Annie, Leonardo!, The Prom,* and *The Spongebob Musical*. Their other theatre interpreting credits include Broadway in Boston (*Les Misérables, Kinky Boots, 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, Jess and Cassie, I can't wait to have fun doing this show with all of you.*

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Photos by Brooke Trisolini

Our beloved *Finding Nemo* characters brought to you by

New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium is helping Wheelock Family Theatre audiences dive deeper into the characters you'll see in the show. Take a trip to the aquarium to see and learn about these magnificent aquatic creatures!

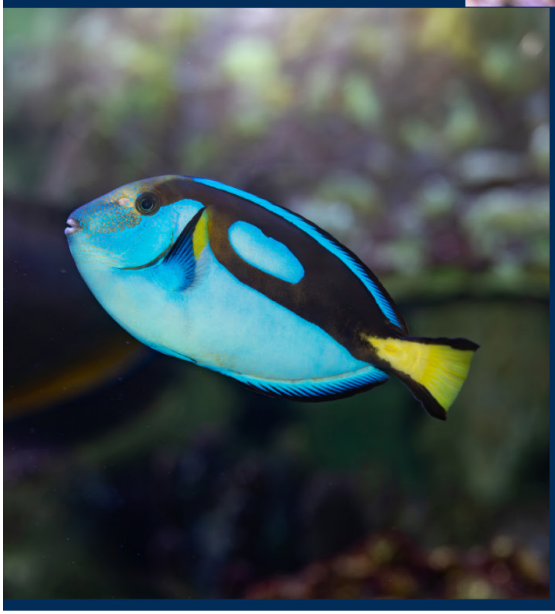


Character: Nemo & Marlin

Animal: Clownfish

Fact: Clownfish and sea anemones have a special relationship called mutualism, where both animals benefit from living together.

Exhibit: Healthy Corals, Healthy Reefs



Character: Dory

Animal: Blue tang (palette surgeonfish)

Fact: Blue tangs have sharp spines near the base of their tails that they can use to defend themselves.

Exhibit: Indo-Pacific Coral Reef

Find Your Favorite Character...

Character: Crush & Squirt

Animal: Green sea turtle

Fact: Green sea turtles can travel thousands of miles each year between feeding grounds and warmer nesting areas. They may also visit coral reefs to stay warm or rest during migration.

Exhitbit: Giant Ocean Tank





Character: Gill

Animal: Moorish idol

Fact: Also known by the name Zanclus cornutus

Exhitbit: Gulf of California

Character: Peach

Animal: Sea star (starfish)

Fact: **S**ea stars live in tidepools along Washington's Olympic Coast, a protected marine sanctuary stretching across 135 miles of coastline.

Exhitbit: Olympic Coast Sanctuary



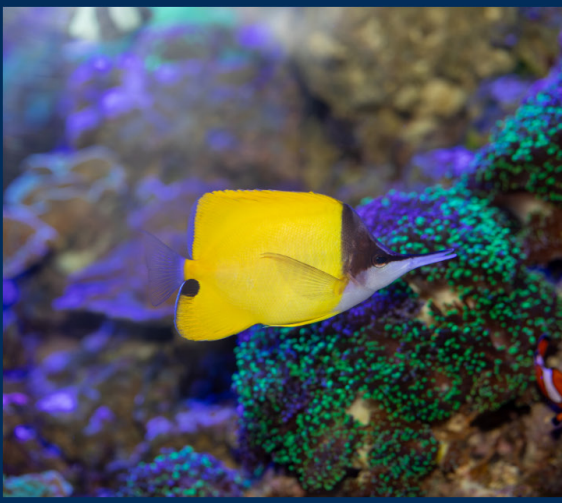
New England Aquarium

Character: Tad

Animal: Butterflyfish

Fact: Also known by the name Longnose butterflyfish (Forcipiger flavissimus)

Exhitbit: Healthy Corals, Healthy Reefs





Character: Bloat

Animal: Pufferfish

Fact: The Aquarium's porcupinefish, Trixie, is trained to recognize a special object and swim toward it to receive food!

Exhitbit: Giant Ocean Tank

Character: Gurgle

Animal: Royal gramma

Fact: Also known by the name Fairy Basslet (Gramma loreto)

Exhitbit: Caribbean Near Shore Reef



Our beloved *Finding Nemo* characters brought to you by

New England Aquarium

Character: Jellyfish ensemble

Animal: Jellyfish/ Sea Jellies

Fact: Most true jellies are about 95% water and translucent! Their tentacles contain stinging cells called nematocysts that help them capture prey and defend themselves. Jellies grow from larvae to polyps to adults, and some can remain polyps for decades. They use oral arms to move food toward their stomachs, and many have eye spots that detect light and gravity. Tentacles lined with stinging cells called nematocysts allow jellies to catch prey and defend themselves.

Exhitbit: Sea Jellies





Character: Sheldon

Animal: Seahorse

Fact: Also known by the name Pot-belly seahorse (Hippocampus abdominalis)

Exhitbit: Australian Temperate Reef



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