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presents

THE CAKE

by
BEKAH BRUNSTETTER

directed and designed by
SCOTT DUNLAP

stage manager
JULEEN COLLINS

wardrobe assistance
CRIS KING

scenic painting
ANNIE COLLINS

technical direction
WILLIAM SPRATT

sound engineer
WESLEY LEON

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THE CAKE is presented by arrangement with **CONCORD THEATRICALS**
on behalf of **SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.**

THE CAKE was originally produced in New York City by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director/ Barry Grove, Executive Producer on February 12, 2019.

THE CAKE was originally produced by The Echo Theatre Company, Los Angeles, CA
Chris Fields, Artistic Director/Jesse Cannady, Producing Director

THE CAKE recieved a developmental reading at The Alley Theatre
Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director/ Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director

THE CAKE was developed at The Ojai Playwrights Conference
Robert Egan, Artistic Director/Producer

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Founded in 1923, the Chattanooga Theatre Centre is dedicated to enriching the cultural, intellectual, and emotional development of people of all ages by providing high-quality theatrical experiences and creating opportunities to engage in them. To join us in this mission, call 423.267.8534 or visit us at TheatreCentre.com to find out how you can take part.

THE CAKE

CAST

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Della.....LISA CASH

Tim.....KEITH CASH

Macy.....E'TIENNE EASLEY

Martha.....DAWN HENDRIX

George.....TIM NEWLAND

Jen.....MORGAN PEREZ

DIRECTOR
Scott Dunlap

STAGE MANAGER
Juleen Collins

SETTING
2018, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A Bakery;
Della's Bedroom, Chip's Guest Bathroom, The Ranada Inn

THE CAKE
will be presented in two acts
with one 15-minute intermission.

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR
SCOTT DUNLAP

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Or as we always said in my family: "Whatever blows your skirt up." While working on this play, I have thought a lot about the "pursuit of Happiness." With lots of talk about the constitution in our news and in politics, we have sort of forgotten about the Humanity of "Happiness." Yes, we are constantly told to guard ourselves. Don't commit to events or tasks that give you anxiety. Don't let work control you, take time for your own happiness. This is absolutely true…to a point. Sometimes someone else is pursuing their Happiness and you have to stay 2 hours later at work. Or in their pursuit of Happiness, leaves someone else feeling unloved or cared about. We have become so hung up on immediate gratification that we have forgotten how sometimes Happiness comes from making others happy. This is something I struggle with myself. Sometimes, your Happiness above all others leads us down some strange roads. So then those roads get really foggy when we add morals and ethics to our "pursuit of Happiness."

This play certainly doesn't answer all of the questions or difficulties we have in the modern world. Would you bake a cake for someone in prison? Would their crime change that decision? If the prisoner was a rapist? What about a drunk driver? What if the driver killed someone? What about someone of a different faith? I was always amazed at the "One man, One Woman argument," because it failed to address heterosexual atheists. Or satanists. So, the religious objection doesn't include non-believers? But times and people change.

When I first came to the "Little Theatre," in the 1980s, the audience was still dressing up. Many of the folks reading this might lament those times, but also, isn't it nice to be comfortable? Ladies no longer wearing hose and girdles. Pointy-toed shoes. Men don't wear a tie. So now, if you want to dress up for the theatre, you have a choice! Go for it! And if you don't because you had to work or you are on vacation or just uncomfortable in something starched and pressed…you are still welcome. Inclusion of informal dress doesn't exclude those who like more formal attire.

Also, CTC used to smell like smoke. The Executive Director smoked. Inside. During rehearsal. Times change. Can you fathom someone smoking in your office? In the grocery store? Or here in the theatre? And yet, I was in the show that finally got smoking of tobacco products banned onstage. That show was "The Importance of Being Earnest." A comedy written in 1895. The production that tipped the scale was produced in 1998. Now, if there is smoking onstage, we must find tobaccoless vapes. There are some really gross tobacco-less cigarettes, but the smell is like a trash fire…so no one likes it. Times change.

People change. And why? Because it becomes personal. Our own personal "pursuit of Happiness." Someone you love can make a difference. A parent gets lung cancer, it's easier to give up cigarettes. A grandchild refuses to wear a tie or tuck in their shirt, you love them anyway. Someone gets married, and you make them a cake…**because you love them**. You don't have to approve of anyone else's Happiness. It is not required. But the Bible does require us to love one another. It was a "new commandment." Maybe, sometime in the near future, this play will seem ridiculous. Maybe in 10 years or 20, we will look back and think how bizarre it was to even be a debate. Looking at our track record with race relations and women's rights, it might take a little longer. But I can hope. We all can hope. We can all pursue our own Happiness.

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FIRST HORIZON

MEET THE CAST

LISA CASH *(Della)* is honored to return to the CTC stage for her third production since relocating to Tennessee in 2021. Lisa hails from Prattville, Oklahoma where she excelled in academics and vocal music, earning a scholarship to the Honors College at Oklahoma Baptist University. Lisa received her B.A. in English Education in 2000 and then completed coursework for an M.A. in English (TESL) from Oklahoma State University in 2002, a few months before becoming a mother. In 2003 the Cash family relocated to Japan where Lisa had three more children, taught English to Japanese students of all ages, performed as a gospel/jazz/blues vocalist all over Tokyo, directed an international children's choir, founded a homeschool cooperative, and partnered with Japanese Christians in church-planting. In 2012 the Cashes relocated to Germany where Lisa started another homeschool coop, another children's choir, and another M.A. in English (Creative Writing) at Southern New Hampshire University. Lisa's recent roles at the CTC include "Frau Schmidt" in *The Sound of Music* and "Aunt March" in *Little Women*. In 2019 Lisa was recognized by U.S. Army Entertainment Europe with the TOPPERS Award for "Best Supporting Actress in a Musical" for her portrayal of "Rosie" in *Mamma Mia* and the following year she was nominated for "Best Actress in a Play" for her work as "Mindy" in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Lisa is in awe of her Cake castmates' dedication and authenticity and deeply grateful to Scott Dunlap for entrusting her with this transformational role, her first-ever lead role. Lisa would like to dedicate her performance to her firstborn, Claire-chan..

KEITH CASH *(Tim)* returns reverently to the CTC stage after his debut as Franz in *The Sound of Music* last fall. Keith is recently retired from the U.S. Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) after having spent eighteen years as an elementary Special Education Teacher overseas, in Japan and Germany. Keith also has an M.A. in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. He began acting in 2016 with KMC Onstage in Kaiserslautern, Germany when his wife talked him into auditioning for *Sister Act* and—to his shock—he landed the role of villain Curtis Jackson. Keith was nominated for "Best Supporting Actor in a Musical" at the 2019 U.S. Army Entertainment Europe TOPPER Awards for his role as Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia*. Keith also enjoys photography, reading, writing, and spending time with his wife and three teenage sons.

E'TIENNE EASLEY *(Macy)* This is E'tienne's 5th production at CTC. Aside from volunteering as an usher, her CTC production credits include *The Color Purple*, (her debut as Stage Manager), *Having Our Say* (winning the MVP Award), *Gem of the Ocean*, *Fences* (winning both Outstanding Leading Actress and Audience Favorite Actress awards for her role), and *Jar the Floor*. In addition to CTC work, E'tienne has been in over 15 stage productions with several local theatre companies, worked in local commercials, regional television shows and even dabbled in some voice-over work. E'tienne is currently the Executive Director of Family Promise of Greater Chattanooga. The arts are truly a passion of hers. She is extremely honored to have worked with such a great cast and team. She would like to thank Scott Dunlap for entrusting her with this role. Thanks to all of my friends and family for your support and encouragement.

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TIM NEWLAND *(George)* Tim is thrilled to be back on the Circle Stage at CTC for the first time in several years. Previous shows at CTC for Tim include *Love/Sick*, *The Library*, *The Children's Hour*, *Noises Off*, and *33 Variations*. In his downtime Tim can be found digging in the dirt, planting and growing stuff in his gardens. Tim would like to send out his love and deep affection to his wife, Stacy, for her patience and understanding. It has not gone unnoticed. Love to you, Ignatius J. Chihuahua, Doug Judy, and Guillermo.

MORGAN "TRUET" PEREZ *(Jen)* is making their CTC debut, having not touched the art of theatre but once in the last six years, previously appearing as Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* and Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*. They are thrilled to be a part of such a production in which the premise is so relatable and inevitably inspiring to its audience. They are passionate about the arts and spend their time off set painting, writing, drawing, performing, playing piano, and singing. You can enjoy some of Truet's work on music streaming platforms under "Morgan Perez" or locally at Wanderlinger's Poetry Circle. They would also like to shoutout their best friends, Bambii and Clover, for supporting them in such tough times when hard-hitting and emotional topics like the ones touched in *The Cake* which are so relevant right here, right now.

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

SCOTT DUNLAP *(Director and Set Designer)* an alumnus of CTC's Youth Theatre, he graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and was a member of their Acting Company. This season marks his 24th as a CTC staff member, beginning as Youth Theatre Designer in '97. He has been onstage in numerous CTC productions in roles as varied as Bobby in *Company*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, and The Baker in *Into the Woods*. He was the Youth Theatre Director from 2013 - 2020. His long history of directing often includes designing his own productions. Notable favorites include *Almost, Maine* in 2009 & 2021, *Hello Dolly*, *Little Women*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *A Room with a View*, *The Sound of Music*, *Xanadu*, and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* in 2005, 2009, & 2018.

JULEEN COLLINS *(Stage Manager)* Juleen has volunteered regularly for CTC during the past two years. She stage-managed J*oe Turner's Come and Gone* and *Alabama Story*, for which she received the Outstanding Stage Manager Award. She has also worked in various crew capacities for a number of productions. Juleen studied directing and stage management at the University of Virginia. Favorite directing projects include: the first regional production of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*; *Waiting for Godot*; and *Forget Me* by Harvey Fierstein. She stage-managed three seasons at Heritage Repertory Theatre and many productions at UVa. She is passionate about the subject matter, writing, and social relevance of *The Cake*. Juleen was delighted to work with a truly gifted director, creative team, and cast. The crew was pretty damn rockin', too!

MEET THE STAFF

RODNEY VAN VALKENBURG *(Executive Director)* started his career at the Little Theatre in 1983 as the first full-time Youth Theatre director. He served for more than 18 years as Director of Programs and as Director of Education. Before coming back to the CTC in 2020, he was Vice President of ArtsBuild. Highlights at the CTC include the Youth Theatre representing the U.S. at the International Theatre Camp in Zelenograd, Russia. Rodney also served as Artistic Director of the camp in Narva, Estonia. He has directed over 80 plays at the CTC, including many Youth Theatre productions, *Vintage Hitchcock, Boeing, Boeing,* and *Annie.* He has also been seen onstage in *It's a Wonderful Life, Newsies, A Room with a View, Les Misérables, The Producers,* and *Anything Goes.* Rodney has been a participant in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Partners in Education program since 2003 and served on the program's Advisory Committee. He served as the coordinator for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child site, also through the Kennedy Center. Rodney has also served as a grant panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission. He serves as Tennessee State Captain for the Americans for the Arts' National Arts Action Summit in Washington, D.C. He is a past president of the Tennessee Theatre Association and served on the executive committee of the Southeastern Theatre Conference. He received his MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Rodney shares his passion for theatre with his son, Jake, who lives in Atlanta.

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Rachel Carroll (*Marketing Manager*) joined Chattanooga Theatre Centre in early March. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Lee University and a Master of Public Administration from UTC. After moving to Chattanooga six years ago, she has been an advocate for local arts and participated in the Holmberg Arts Leadership Academy in 2019. Her work in fundraising, communications, and marketing as well as her love for theatre makes her particularly excited to join the CTC team as they prepare for the Centennial Season. In her free time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her two Australian Shepherds, Godzilla and Nessie and husband Zachary.

Annie Collins (*Production Manager*) has been found on stage and backstage at CTC for over a decade. Growing up, she was an active member of the Youth Theatre and TheatreQuest. In recent years, she's been a Scenic Assistant at CTC and the Scenic Designer for our production of *Alabama Story*. Annie last appeared on the CTC stage as Henrietta Angkatell in *The Hollow*. Some of her favorite roles include Beatrice (*A Servant of Two Masters*), Gretchen (*Boeing, Boeing*), Bad Idea Bear (*Avenue Q*), Emily (*Our Town*), and all the fun roles she's played with the Muse of Fire Project. She is a graduate of UTC with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. When she's not at the theatre, she enjoys reading, theme parks, and the outdoors with her dogs and husband.

Jason Dupee (*Scene Shop Manager*) is a recent addition to the CTC team and brings experience as the technical director at both Ringgold High School and Berean Academy. At Ringgold High, he worked with two other educators to create a successful theatre program that has received multiple accolades from the Georgia High School Association. In the past four years the program has won, for the first time in the school's history, three overall state championships in theatre-related competitions. He previously worked as lead carpenter at Southeastern Theatrical Supply. Jason has a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Productions from the Academy of Arts and a Master of Arts in Theatre Studies from Regent University. He has a passion for the arts and the impact of the arts on the lives of the community.

Justin Gass (*Front of House/Event Manager*) started working this past May in the Box Office, and recently became our Front of House/ Event Manager. Justin was born and raised here in Chattanooga, TN. He participated in several of our youth theatre productions on and off stage growing up. He studied theatre at Depaul University and was certified in Event Planning at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. He has over twenty years of experience in the service industry including management and events. Recently moving back home, Justin is thrilled to be back at the theatre which he always has considered a second home.

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Jeff Hill (*Business Manager*) as a long-time volunteer, Jeff has been involved at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre for nearly four decades. He has appeared in numerous productions. In addition to his on-stage performance experience, he has also volunteered backstage, stage managed shows, coordinated special events, run sound and lights, and worked in the scene shop, costume shop and front of house. Jeff attended Mercer University, where he studied music theatre performance and accounting. He also has a freelance event planning company and produces unique cakes, food, and floral designs. He is very delighted to become part of the staff here at the Theatre Centre, a place so near and dear to his heart.

Cris King (*Costume Shop Manager*) is thrilled to be CTC's Costume Shop Manager! Cris joined the CTC family performing in the 2021 production of *Vintage Hitchcock* and later volunteered in the costume shop. She joined the team officially just in time to help with *Aladdin Jr.* Cris hails from Birmingham, AL, and moved to Chattanooga with her beautiful girlfriend Ramsay in 2019. Together they raise two rowdy black cats, Finn and Poe.

Kitty Murakami (*Box Office Assistant*) moved here from Ocala, Florida, in 2015. She was raised in upstate New York, graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, and has lived in great places like Denver and Maui. Her first and only experience with theatre (other than high school plays) started as a costume shop volunteer at Ocala Civic Theatre for two years. After retiring as a pharmacist and moving to Chattanooga, she continued volunteering at CTC in the costume shop and is currently the Box Office Assistant. "It has been an honor and a privilege as well as a wonderful learning experience to be involved with this organization. CTC is blessed to have such an amazing facility, talented dedicated staff and volunteers, and such supportive patrons."

William Spratt (*Technical Director*) recently joined the CTC team after serving as Technical Director and in-house Scenic Designer at the Ocala (FL) Civic Center. Prior to that experience, he was a staff carpenter and welder with the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. He has also performed carpentry, electrical, audio, and properties work with Rhino Staging in Las Vegas, Las Vegas Entertainment Productions, Jefferson Performing Arts Society in New Orleans, Jenny Wiley Summer Theatre in Prestonsburg, KY, and Peach Stage Summer Theatre in Valdosta, GA.

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Chuck Tuttle (*Director of Education & Innovation*) holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Children's Theatre and Creative Drama from the University of Texas at Austin and has over 30 years of experience doing theatre with and for young people. His professional background includes serving as Director of Education at Austin Theatre for Youth in Austin, Texas, and Children's Theatre Workshop in Pleasanton, California. Chuck has taught theatre classes to all ages in acting, playwriting, technical theatre, Shakespeare, voice, movement, improvisation, and comedy, among others. As an actor, he has taken on the roles of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol,* Joaquin in *El Californio,* Simon in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle,* and Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes (*which he performed in Hokkaido, Japan.) Directing credits include *Waiting for Godot, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, The Nightingale, The Crucible, Once on This Island, God of Carnage, A Year With Frog and Toad, and Go, Dog, Go!* Chuck has written several stage adaptations, including *Plant, Grow, Pick* for CTC's Theatre for the Very Young program. He has collaborated with composer Michael Huseman to create short musicals for our Summer Musical Performance Training Academy. As sponsor/advisor of CTC's teen interest group, TheatreQuest, he contributes to and directs *The Alphabet Plays*, an ongoing series for young children.

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