

CHATTANOOGA
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Ain't Misbehavin'

The Fats Waller Musical Show

APRIL 12 THROUGH MAY 5, 2024

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**CHATTANOOGA
THEATRE CENTRE**

presents

Ain't Misbehavin'

THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW

APRIL 12TH THROUGH MAY 5TH, 2024

created and originally directed by

RICHARD MALTBY, JR.

conceived by
**RICHARD MALTBY, JR. and
MURRAY HORWITZ**

original choreography and
musical staging by
ARTHUR FARIA

musical adaptations, orchestrations,
& arrangements by
LUTHER HENDERSON

vocal & musical concepts by
JEFFREY GUTCHEON

musical arrangements by
JEFFREY GUTCHEON and WILLIAM ELLIOTT

musical director
NESHAWN CALLOWAY

choreographer
CRYSTAL NEWSON

director
RODNEY VAN VALKENBURG

costume designer
KIMBERLY REYNOLDS

scenic designer
ADAM MIECIELICA

lighting designer
JEREMY CAMPBELL

sound engineer
WESLEY LEON

sound technician
JOSH HARSHMAN

band leader
MARCIA SMITH

stage manager
RODNEY STRONG

Chattanooga Theatre Centre would like to extend a special thanks to
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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.

CAST

listed alphabetically by last name

VINCENT HALE
TIM HARRIS
BRANDON HINES
KIMMIE J SOUL (AKA KIMBERLY HURLEY)
AINEK JENKINS
BRANDI JORDAN
TESSA KELLY
GARRELL WOODS-TRINITY

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN BAND

MARCIA SMITH - PIANO AND BAND LEADER
STEPHEN BEARDEN - TRUMPET
TREVOR DENNISON - BASS
GORDON INMAN- CLARINET AND SAXOPHONE
MIKE SALTER - PERCUSSION

PLEASE NOTE

This production includes some suggestive lyrics that may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The run time for this production is 2 hours and 15 minutes including a 15-minute intermission.

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN was originally produced by **THE MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB** and originally produced on Broadway by **EMANUEL AZENBERG, DASHA EPSTEIN, THE SHUBERT ORGANIZATION, JANE GAYNOR, & RON DANTE.**

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN[®] is presented by special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

SONGS

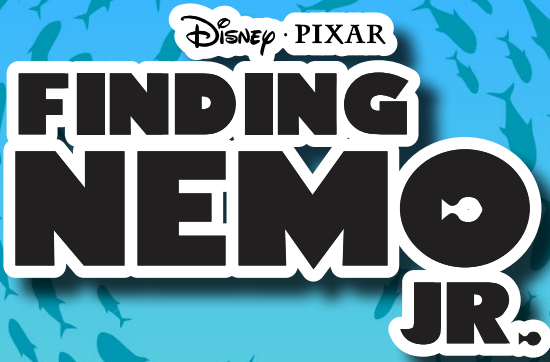
ACT I

- “Ain’t Misbehavin” – Company
- “Lookin’ Good” – Company
- “T’aint Nobody” – Company
- “Honeysuckle Rose” – Vincent and Kimmie
- “Squeeze Me” – Brandi
- “Handful of Keys” – Company
- “I’ve got a Feeling I’m Falling” – Ainek and Company
- “How Ya Baby” – Garrell and Company
- “Jitterbug Waltz” – Tim, Brandi, and Company
- “Ladies Who Sing with the Band” – Brandon and Vincent
- “Yacht Club” – Tessa
- “When Nylons Bloom” – Ladies
- “Cash for your Trash” – Kimmie
- “Off-Time” – Ladies
- “The Joint is Jumpin” – Tessa and Company

ACT II

- “Spreadin’ Rhythm Around” – Company
- “Lounging at the Waldorf” – Garrell and Ladies
- “The Viper’s Drag” – Tim
- “Mean to Me” – Tessa
- “Your Feet’s Too Big” – Vincent
- “That Ain’t Right” – Garrell and Kimmie
- “Keepin’ Out of Mischief Now” – Brandi
- “Find Out What They Like” – Ainek and Kimmie
- “Fat and Greasy” – Gentlemen
- “Black and Blue” – Company
- “I’m Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter” – Brandon
- “Two Sleepy People” – Brandon and Brandi
- “I’ve Got My Fingers Crossed” – Kimmie and Company
- “I Can’t Give You Anything But Love” – Tim and Ainek
- “It’s a Sin to Tell a Lie” – Company
- “Honeysuckle Rose/Ain’t Misbehavin” REPRISE – Company

COMING UP NEXT IN THE 100TH SEASON...

The logo for "Finding Nemo Jr." features the "Disney Pixar" logo at the top. Below it, the words "FINDING NEMO" are stacked in a large, bold, black font with a white outline. The letter "O" in "NEMO" is replaced by a white silhouette of a fish. Below "NEMO" is the word "JR." in a smaller, similar font style. The entire logo is set against a light blue background with a pattern of small, darker blue fish swimming in various directions.

Disney · PIXAR
**FINDING
NEMO**
JR.

MAY 10 THROUGH MAY 19, 2024

PRESENTED IN THE MAINSTAGE THEATRE

Disney • Pixar's "Finding Nemo, Jr." tells the story of one fish as he searches the ocean to find his missing son. Mixed with puppetry, singing, and dancing from two talented casts of young performers, this Youth Theatre production is sure to be a favorite of fish and friends alike!

The logo for "Prelude to a Kiss" features the title in a large, stylized, black font with a white outline. The letters are thick and blocky, with a decorative flourish under the letter 'S'. The logo is set against a background of vibrant red rose petals.

PRELUDE TO A KISS

JUNE 7 THROUGH JUNE 23, 2024

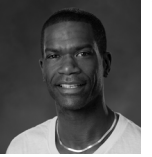
PRESENTED IN THE CIRCLE THEATRE

This romantic comedy follows Rita and Peter, a normal couple who fall in love and want to spend the rest of their lives together. At their wedding, a strange event causes an unbelievable change in Rita that must be reversed while there's still time to save her.

MEET THE CAST



VINCENT HALE a Chattanooga native, Educator, Musician and Yogi, is honored to be a part of this production. He was the Music Director for *Something Rotten! The Musical* last summer at CTC and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at the Colonnade. He most recently graced the CTC stage as Mister in *The Color Purple: The Musical* and was seen in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Children of Eden*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Urinetown* as a teenager. He currently serves as the Dean of Fine Arts at his alma mater Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts and Worship Leader at East Ridge United Methodist Church. He loves running in nature, reading captivating stories, traveling to explore new destinations, and shopping for new threads. Here's to the Dreamers!



TIM HARRIS is a Christian father of three children. Most recently, Tim appeared in Chattanooga Theatre Centre's production of *The Color Purple: The Musical* as Harpo. He has an alumnus of Chattanooga High Centre for Creative Arts and a former Choo Choo Kid under the direction of Allan Ledford and Marcia Smith. Tim was a quarter finalist on Season 7 of "America Idol." Currently, he is one the African Kings of Classical Soul under Kimmie J and a manager at 1885 Grill.



BRANDON HINES is excited to be performing at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre once again! He last appeared in CTC's production of *The Color Purple: The Musical*, and *The Amen Corner*. He is currently an Academic Advisor at Chattanooga State Community College. Brandon has always had a passion for the arts and is extremely honored to have worked with such amazing and talented individuals. In his free time, he enjoys singing, traveling, reading, working out, and spending time with friends and family. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support. Lastly, he would like to thank the cast for making this journey one to remember! Do one!



KIMMIE J SOUL (aka Kimberly Hurley) was born in Nashville and raised in Chattanooga where she has established herself as a prominent soul artist. Her musical journey includes collaborations with groups like the Nashville Soul Choir and Jah-way, as well as providing backup vocals for renowned artists such as Kirk Franklin, Mandisa, Melinda Doolittle, and Tobi Mac. Her talent has led her to secure lead roles in musicals such as *Caroline or Change*, where she portrayed "The Moon," and *Sister Act*, where she embodied "Deloris Van Cartier." Currently based in Chattanooga, Kimmie J Soul is deeply engaged in her local arts community. She has graced prestigious events such as Nightfall music festival in 2020 and 2021, as well as the BEC awards in 2022 and 2024. Kimmie J Soul is the visionary behind the creation of the African Kings and Queens of Classical Soul. Her life's mission is to inspire, heal, and empower her listeners through positive, lyrical, and uplifting classical soul music. She is not just an artist but also a sister, a daughter, and a best friend.



AINEK JENKINS is making her debut with the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. As an alumnus of the Center for Creative Arts, Ainek has always had a love for singing and dancing. She continued to sing and dance while furthering her education at Berry College with a BS in Psychology, minoring in Social Work and Applied Behavior Analysis. Ainek completed her Master's Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Lipscomb University. In her free time, she enjoys naps, swimming, and trying new foods. She is currently working as a Clinic Manager, where she enjoys working with individuals who have an Autism diagnosis in behavior therapy. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, as well as the cast of *Ain't Misbehavin'* for being so loving, welcoming and becoming like family.



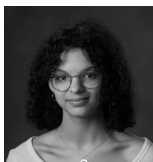
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BRANDI JORDAN, a native of Chattanooga, TN, is a '02 graduate of Center for the Creative Arts and is returning here to the CTC stage after debuting in *Working* (Outstanding Debut Actor) and also performing in CTC's 2023 production of *The Color Purple: The Musical* as Shug Avery. She was also honored to provide a selection of "Wade in the Water" for the opening night of August Wilson's *Gem of The Ocean* here at CTC. Brandi would like to thank her family and friends for their ongoing support and endless love. Love you past the stars!



TESSA KELLY is senior at CCA and is excited to be back on the CTC stage where she has previously performed in *SCROOGE! The Musical*, *Peter Pan The Musical*, *The Color Purple*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Lion King, Jr.* and *A Christmas Story, the Musical*. Last summer, Tess performed in *Jesus Christ Super Star* at Stagedoor Manor in New York. Recently, Tess choreographed *Honk, Jr.* at CCA and has performed in *Chicago*, *Godspell*, and *The Theory of Relativity*. Tess has a genuine passion for all aspects of musical theatre and hopes to obtain a BFA in Musical Theatre. She would like to thank her wonderful mum for being so supportive and caring during the rehearsal process and the creative team of *Ain't Misbehavin'* for giving her another wonderful opportunity to be on stage!

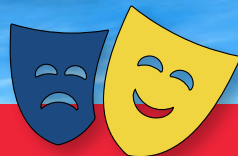


GARRELL WOODS- TRINITY is a seasoned professional in every aspect of the stage, boasting a wealth of experience both as a CCA graduate and a CTC Theatre Quest alumnus. With over a decade of involvement on and off the stage, he has demonstrated his versatility and passion. His journey began with the establishment of Young, Gifted, & Black Chattanooga, an organization where he assumed the roles of producer, director, and musical director, striving to create artistic opportunities for under-served youth of color. In addition, Garrell founded The Figurines Burlesque Troupe, providing a creative outlet for adult performers. Now, he has shifted his focus towards championing the contributions of queer people of color through his organization, Black Rainbow Movement. Garrell recently appeared in August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* earlier this year after a decade-long hiatus since his role in *Blues For Mr. Charlie*, directed by Hope Alexander at CTC in 2011.

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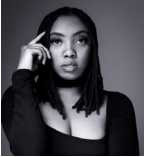


ChattSymphony.org

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



NESHAWN CALLOWAY (Music Director) is completing her twenty-third year as Vocal Music Director at Center for Creative Arts (CCA) where she conducts six vocal ensembles. Her vocal ensembles consistently score superior ratings at regional, state and national festivals and her students consistently place in regional and state honor choirs. Neshawn was recognized by the CMA (County Music Association) Foundation as a music teacher of excellence in 2020. In addition to her work at CCA she also teaches private lessons and is often a guest soloist in churches in the Chattanooga area. As a performer Neshawn is the lead singer for a neo-soul band, "Sound Advice." She has performed with CSO Big Band and CSO Orchestra as well as Choral Arts of Chattanooga. She has appeared at Nightfall, Riverbend and the Levitt Amp Concert Series with her band. Known throughout Chattanooga for her performance of the music of blues legend, Bessie Smith, Neshawn created an educational performance that highlights the life and music of The Empress. In 2012 she traveled to Hamm, Germany where she performed a concert of jazz and blues to a sold-out audience. In May of 2022, she returned to Hamm, with 21 students to perform for our sister city. Neshawn's experience with CTC extends back to 2017 in the cast of *The Wiz* where she played "Aunt Em" and "Glinda." She has also served as music director for *Once on This Island, Jr.*, *The Lion King, Jr.*, *Aladdin Jr.*, and *The Color Purple*.



CRYSTAL NEWSON (Choreographer) is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is currently a professional dancer, choreographer and teaching artist in her local area. Crystal has recently become a part-time dance educator for her alma mater, Center for Creative Arts, and an Artistic Director of The Katherine Dunham Juba Dance Ensemble. During her years as a dance major at Center for Creative Arts she began to develop her love and skill in choreography. Newson studied many styles in dance, which allowed her to pull inspiration from her training and experience to create stories with her movement. After graduating from CCA, Ms. Newson began her work as a dance instructor/Choreographer working with many dance programs such as; Project Motion, Choo Choo kids, Chattanooga Ballet, Ballet Tennessee, Lee University, Covenant College and many more. Newson has also worked in the musical industry creating work for *Hello Dolly!*, *Hairspray*, *Mary Poppins*, *Godspell* and many other showcases for The Choo Choo Kids of Center for Creative Arts.



RODNEY VAN VALKENBURG (Production Director and CTC 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.



KIMBERLY REYNOLDS (Costume Designer) has volunteered regularly for the past nine years at Chattanooga Theatre Centre as a performer, stage manager, front-of-house worker, and costume designer. Her CTC production credits include August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* (Stage Manager), *The Color Purple* (Costume Designer), *A Civil War Christmas* (Winning the Debut Actress award), *Gem of Ocean* (Winning the Outstanding Leading Actress and Audience Favorite Actress awards), *Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years* (Winning the MVP Award), and she also appeared in the one woman production of the original stage play *Peeing In a Soda Bottle* by playwright E. Claudette Freeman. She is very excited to be working with the talented cast and crew of *Ain't Misbehavin'* and would like to thank Rodney Van Valkenburg for giving her this opportunity.



JEREMY CAMPBELL (Lighting Designer and CTC Scene Shop Manager) joined the CTC team last year, but he's no stranger to the CTC stage. He has been involved with Chattanooga Theatre Centre as an actor, stage manager, volunteer, and now as a staff member. Jeremy hopes that you enjoy this production and the 100th Season of shows here at CTC.



ADAM MIECIELICA (CTC Technical Director) officially joined the CTC team last summer, although he's no stranger to its productions. He received his MFA in Scenic Design and Technical Production from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He has worked professionally designing and working on tech for many theatres across the country including The Santa Fe Opera in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vermont, and The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison, New Jersey. Adam was Visiting Professor of Scenic Design at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas before teaching at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



MARCIA SMITH (Rehearsal Accompanist and Band Leader) has been the accompanist for numerous productions at CTC beginning with *Nunsense II* in 1994. Some of her credits include *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Annie*, *The Secret Garden*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hairspray*, *A Christmas Story*, *Oklahoma!*, *9 to 5*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Color Purple: The Musical*, and several other productions. She has also served as accompanist at Oak Street Playhouse, Girls Preparatory School, and Signal Mountain Playhouse. Marcia taught music in the public school system for 45 years and retired from Center for Creative Arts where she was also a part of many productions. She is very happy to be a part of *Ain't Misbehavin'* and for having the opportunity to work with many former/current students and colleagues.




RODNEY STRONG (Stage Manager) has been active with CTC since 1990. He has worked on stage as an actor and backstage as Stage Manager in over 50 productions, most recently Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" last fall. He is a three-time winner of the Outstanding Stage Award. Some of his favorite acting roles at CTC include Norman in *The Boys Next Door*, Arvide in *Guys and Dolls*, Mr. Carn in *Oklahoma*, Van Helsing in *Dracula* and three times as Maurice in *Beauty and the Beast*. Rodney, also, serves on the CTC Board of Directors. Rodney thanks his wife, Lynn, for her support of his theatre hobby.



Our mission is to promote youth involvement in the performing arts through grants and scholarships.

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MEET THE STAFF



BRADY BRIGHT (Technical Assistant) loves getting to be a part of the process of making shows come to life, taking scenes and designs that are scripted on paper and creating them into real, living stories for audiences to love. He was mentored by Taylor Williams at The Colonnade in Ringgold, Georgia. While there, he helped build a multitude of sets for shows like *Charlie Brown* and *Cinderella*. Here at CTC, Brady enjoys working with and learning from Technical

Director, Adam Miecielica. It is one of his favorite parts of getting to work in the scene shop. He hopes you all become immersed into this world and enjoy the show.



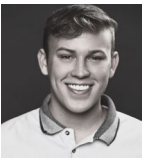
RACHEL CARROLL (Marketing Manager) is excited to be a part of Chattanooga Theatre Centre's 100-year legacy. As a student, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Lee University and a Master of Public Administration from UTC. After moving to Chattanooga in 2017, she has been an advocate for local 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 promote the 100th Anniversary. In her free time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her two Australian Shepherds, Godzilla and Nessie, and her husband Zachary.



ANNIE COLLINS (Box Office Assistant) 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 Theatre Quest. 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.



MALAKI CUMMINGS (Box Office Assistant) is a full-time student at Chattanooga State studying music. He hopes to work towards a Doctorate degree in Music to achieve a life-long goal of being a Music Professor. His regional credits as a Musical Theatre performer include, Arpad in *She Loves Me* and Chip in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, both at Priscilla Beach Theatre. He credits his enjoyment working at CTC to the opportunity to work *in* and *with* the

community, gain exposure to different skill sets, and the incredible staff!"



SCOTT DUNLAP (Director of Productions) is an alumnus of CTC's Youth Theatre program, graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 1996, and was a member of their 1997 Acting Company. This season marks his 26th on staff at CTC, starting as Youth Theatre Designer from 1997 until 2000. He has been onstage in numerous CTC productions, including Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Roger DeBris in *The Producers*, and the Baker in *Into the Woods*, and most recently Brother Jeremiah in *Something Rotten! The Musical*. His long history of directing often includes designing elements of his own productions. Some of his favorites include *Almost, Maine*, *The Best Man*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Dark of the Moon*, *Hair*, *Love/Sick*, *Mr. & Mrs. M*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Ring Round the Moon*, *A Room with a View*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Xanadu*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* in 2005, 2009, and 2018.

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If your ears perk up at
"pour-over" or "small-batch"
...well, we'd call you one of us.

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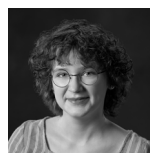
FIND YOUR
NEXT PURSUIT



JUSTIN GASS (Front-of-House/Event Manager) started working in May of 2022 in the Box Office, and later became CTC's Front of House/Event Manager. Justin was born and raised in Chattanooga, TN. He participated in several of the Youth Theatre productions on and off stage growing up. Justin 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.



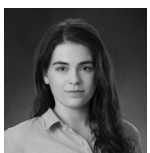
LEAH GREEN (Technical Assistant) is so happy to have found such a supportive home at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Since starting in August, after debuting in *Something Rotten*, she has worked on *Strega Nona*, *SCROOGE! The Musical*, and *Peter Pan, The Musical*. She enjoys building and painting the sets, but most of all, she enjoys the amazing experience she gains all while doing that with people she enjoys being with. When Leah isn't at CTC she is a sophomore at Chattanooga State, earning her major in Musical Theatre. Enjoy the show!



MARY ELIZA HENDRICKS (Education Associate) is a Chattanooga native who graduated with a B.A. Theatre Degree from Emory and Henry College in 2021, and has been working as a theatre artist in the Chattanooga area ever since. Her directing credits include: *Love Letters* and *Tin Cat Shoes* with the Mountain Arts Theatre, *A Stroll Down Holiday Lane* at the MACC, and *The Y Play* at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. Mary Eliza choreographed *Mamma Mia* and *Newsies* at Signal Mountain Middle High School and was previously a teaching artist intern at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, teaching theatre to all ages. She also fancies herself on stage from time to time. Most recently, she appeared in CTC's *Peter Pan, The Musical* as Tiger Lily. She is excited to continue exploring new and exciting ways to tell stories with you!



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 be part of the staff here at the Theatre Centre, a place so near and dear to his heart.



GWYNNE JONES (Box Office Assistant) has had an interest in the arts since she was very young, when she acted in church plays and began sculpting. While her love of animals led her to pursue an Associate of Science Degree with an emphasis on animal care and handling, she could not stay away from the theatre. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from UTC's Theater program where she enjoyed acting and voice acting while also furthering her shop skills such as scenic painting and props. Throughout the community and school productions she has acted in, her favorite roles have included Benvolio (*Romeo & Juliet*), Lucy (*Room with a View*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Female Hyde (*Jekyll and Hyde*), and Miss Skillen (*See How They Run*). When she is not around the theatre, she can be found dabbling in any number of hobbies including recreational soccer, hiking or kayaking with her dog, bug collecting, rescuing spiders, photographing plants, animals, fungus and clouds, miscellaneous crafting and construction, and napping with her cats.



CRIS KING (Costume Shop Manager) is thrilled to be CTC's Costume Shop Manager! Cris joined the CTC family during 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 fiancée Ramsay in 2019. Together they raise two rowdy black cats, Finn and Poe.



PHYLLIS MESCON (Development Assistant) Born in South Carolina, Phyllis has enjoyed a 33-year career working in leadership positions with a variety of nonprofit organizations in Chattanooga. Her professional life includes a focus on creating innovative strategies specific to development, experience she hopes will help define her role at Chattanooga Theatre Centre. When not working at CTC, Phyllis and her husband, Jed, usually spend their time attempting to manage the mischief of two rescued dogs, Mister X and Arlo, while also meeting the ever-demanding expectations of Moira Rose, Birdie Girl, and Alfie McCoy, their rescued cats. Jed and Phyllis are also proud parents of Caroline, who works in television production in Los Angeles.



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."



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, William 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* and *Dancing Colors* for CTC's Theatre for the Very Young program.

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For more information about volunteer opportunities,
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1920s: JUST THE START

at Chattanooga Theatre Centre

At the beginning of the 20th Century, there was a general feeling across the country that theatre was getting too “commercial.” The Theatrical Syndicate had a stronghold on the landscape of live theatrical performances at this time, owning and controlling many theatres across the U.S. Communities wanted a theatre that produced plays focusing on issues relevant to them, run *by* and *for* locals. And from that need, The Little Theatre Movement was born. Little Theatres began popping up all over the country, and Chattanooga was no different.



E.Y. Chapin Bust

In the 1920s, Othneil Brown, a reporter at *The Chattanooga Times*, had a notion of just such a local theatre to help bolster Chattanooga’s arts scene. With help from banker and local philanthropist E. Y. Chapin Jr., they wrote letters to prominent Chattanoogaans to help support the creation of the young organization. In December of 1923 we were founded as the Little Theatre, and work on our first production began!

“Dear Me” premiered in April 28, 1924 at Memorial Auditorium as the first production of the Chattanooga Little Theatre. The show received rave reviews by the Chattanooga Times, but it wasn’t without its snafus- A door fell clean out of the set during a performance. Thankfully, a stage carpenter was on hand and fixed the door while they continued the play. As they say, the show must go on!



“Dear Me” Cast Photo



The Bijou Theatre

The Little Theatre grew in popularity and success, producing multiple plays a year performed in highschool gyms and in the Bijou Theatre. The organization ran on memberships back then, and grew to over 200 patrons. After several complaints of disorganization and subpar performance venues by actors and audiences, the Board of Directors knew we could do much more with a space of our own. In 1926 the Little Theatre moved into its very own building, an abandoned firehall leased from the city. While it required some retrofitting to make the space theatrical, it would provide a suitable home for us for the next three decades.



The Firehall

Written by the CTC History Committee

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The Chattanooga Theatre Centre would like to acknowledge our donors since January 1, 2022.

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