

NOVEMBER THEATRE
THEATRE GYM

VIRGINIA **rep**

A Comedy That Brings the House Down—*Literally.*

THE LAY THAT GOES WRONG

BY HENRY LEWIS, HENRY SHIELDS,
JONATHAN SAYER

DIRECTED BY PAUL TAKÁCS



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VIRGINIA
rep

Artistic Director Rick Hammerly
Interim Managing Director Lynn M. Stirrup

VIRGINIA **rep**

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

DIRECTION
Paul Takács

SCENIC DESIGN
Daniel Conway+

COSTUME DESIGN
Sarah Grady

WIG DESIGN
Alia Radabaugh

LIGHTING DESIGN
BJ Wilkinson

SOUND DESIGN
Jonathan Pratt

FIGHT & MOVEMENT DIRECTION
Casey Kaleba^

STAGE MANAGEMENT
Ginnie Willard*

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG is presented by arrangement with
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www.concordtheatricals.com

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THAT GOES WRONG was originally produced on the West End Stage by
Kenny Wax & Stage Presence and on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, J.J.
Abrams, Kenny Wax & Stage Presence

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG was first presented by Mischief Theatre under the
title The Murder Before Christmas on December 4th, 2012, at the Old Red Lion Theatre
in London. THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry
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Marketing Manager: Harry Lockyear

Production & Administrative Assistant: Minoli De Silva

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VAREPTHEATRE



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CAST

Sam Sanders	Trevor
Keith Richards*	Chris/Inspector Carter
Michael Blackwood	Jonathan/Charles
Matt Mitchell	Robert/Thomas
Matt Shofner*	Dennis/Perkins
Amanda Spellman	Annie
Joel White	Max/Cecil/Arthur
Lindsey Zelli*	Sandra/Florence
Axle Burtness	U/S Chris, U/S Robert
Rachel Dilliplane	U/S Sandra, U/S Annie
Korey Harlow	U/S Max, U/S Jonathan
Elle Meerovich	U/S Trevor, U/S Dennis

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Assistant Stage Manager	Lexi Christie
Rehearsal Stage Manager	Hannah Hoffert*
Scenic Charge	Julie Gallagher
Scenic Artist	Avery Rose
Stitchers	Sarah Grady, Elyse Richey, Maggie Ronck
Electricians	Becka Russo, Rylie Vann
Wardrobe Supervisor	Katie Dodge
Deck Chief	Devon Kistler
Deck Crew	Quantavious Brown, Oliver Clarke, Andy Glover, Maggie Kittrell, Hannah Parker, Peter Prout
Light Board Operator	Crystal Norman
Audio Engineer	Amaya “AJ” Rose
Production Photography	Aaron Sутten

° Substituting at select performances

Run time is approximately 2 hours including one 15 minute intermission.

CONTENT WARNING

The Play That Goes Wrong is recommended for ages 8 and up due to fast-paced slapstick comedy, escalating comedic physical violence, gunshot noises, and mild thematic elements.

AUDIENCE ADVISORIES

This production utilizes water-based haze, theatrical smoke, gunshot sound effects, flashing lights, and startling sounds



Thanks to a generous gift from Sara Belle and Neil November and a partnership with Richmond Hearing Doctors, an induction loop hearing system is available for use. *Please see one of our box office associates or ushers to request one.*

Use the QR code to read Cast & Creative Full Bios ►



* Appearing through an Agreement between Virginia Rep and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



+ Member of USA, United Scenic Artists', local 829



^ The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

COMPANY BIOS



Michael Blackwood, he/him, (Jonathan/Charles) A west-coast transplant by way of Staunton, Michael is simply chuffed to be making his Virginia Rep debut. Locally, he's played Hubert Laurie in *Night Must Fall* and George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* at Swift Creek Mill. Favorite credits include Master Ford in *Merry Wives* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* (Endstation Theatre), George Horvath in *Parfumerie* (Silver Line Theatre Exchange), and Mrs. Jennings in *Pride and Prejudice* (Island Shakespeare Festival). Michael has an MFA from Mary Baldwin University. Much love to Ellen and Joe for their support.



Axle Burtress (U/S Chris, U/S Robert) is grateful to be brought into the fray with this motley crew of misfits. Recent stage credits: *Little Bear Ridge Road* (James), *The Cottage* (Beau) with Virginia Rep, *Long Days Journey Into Night* (Jaime Tyrone) with Cadence Theatre, and *Gaslight* (Mr. Manningham) with Swift Creek Mill (2023 RTCC Winner - Best Supporting Actor). Axle thanks his incredible wife, Irene, their dog Lykota, and all his friends and family for their support.



Rachel Dilliplane, she/her, (U/S Sandra, U/S Annie) After understudying multiple characters for Virginia Rep's *Moriarty* and *Murder on the Orient Express*, Rachel is delighted to return to the November for *The Play That Goes Wrong*. She most recently appeared as Lady MacDuff in Richmond Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Other Richmond credits: *Dial M for Murder* (Maxine) at Virginia Rep's Hanover Tavern; *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (Vern) & *The Laramie Project* with Richmond Triangle Players. Offstage, Rachel is a professional voice actor. You may recognize her voice from projects with Nintendo, Delta Airlines, Duolingo, Dove, and Nespresso. Rachel

is a proud member of Theta Theta Theta @tri_theta #supportlocaltheatre.



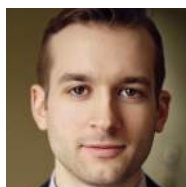
Korey Harlow, he/him, (U/S Max, U/S Jonathan) is new to the Richmond area, having most recently played Algernon in Richmond Shakespeare's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Previously having been based in New York City and performing in theatres across the United States and Mexico, he studied musical theatre at Wright State University and is a professional 3D animator. Previous stage credits include *Mamma Mia!* (Sky), *The Little Mermaid* (Prince Eric), *The 25th... Spelling Bee* (Coneybear), *42nd Street* (Andy), *Chicago*, *Shrek: The Musical*, and *Kinky Boots*.



Elle Meerovich, they/them, (U/S Trevor, U/S Dennis) is happy to be back with Virginia Rep, whose audiences may remember their performances in Shakespeare in *Love*, *Atlantis*, *The 39 Steps*, and more. Other favorite credits include *Doctor Faustus*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It* (Richmond Shakespeare); *Urinetown* (TheatreLAB); *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Scrooge in Rouge* (RTP); Preludes (RTCC Award for Supporting Actor, Musical), *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *...Great Comet of 1812*, *Songs for a New World*, *Penelope* (Firehouse Theatre); and more. Thanks to the production team, cast, and crew for literally holding it all together; and their incredible

partner Chewie, who means the world to them.

COMPANY BIOS



Matt Mitchell, he/him, (Robert/Thomas) studied theatre at VCU and the William Esper Studio in NYC. He is thrilled to be back on stage with Virginia Rep after having a raucous good time as Clarke in *The Cottage* at Hanover Tavern. Last fall he was seen as Frank in *Witch* (Richmond Shakespeare), and past RTCC winning roles include Ollie in *Radiant Vermin* (Best Play, 5th Wall), Jeff in *Kimberly Akimbo* (Best Supporting Actor, Cadence), with acting nominations for *The Liar* (Henley Street), *The School for Lies* (Richmond Shakespeare), and *Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music* (Virginia Rep).



Keith Richards, he/him, (Chris/Inspector). Virginia Rep: *Shakespeare In Love*; *DC: 1776* (Ford's Theatre); *South Pacific Concert* (Olney Theatre); *Job* (Signature Theatre); *Death On the Nile* (Arena); *Fun Home* (Studio Theatre); *Peter & the Starcatcher* (Helen Hayes Award) (Constellation Theatre); *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Imagination Theatre); *James and the Giant Peach* (Helen Hayes Award) (Adventure Theatre). National Tours: *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* (Kennedy Center); J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, (360 Entertainment); *A Christmas Carol* (Nebraska Theatre Caravan). Regional: Barter: 9 to 5; *Mill Mountain: The Odd Couple*. Film: *Down To The Felt*. TV:

American Titans, *Sultan & the Saint*. Instagram - @keithrichardsactor

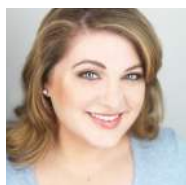


Sam Sanders, he/him, (Trevor) is thrilled to make his Virginia Rep debut! A VCU alumnus with a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance, Sam is excited to continue expanding his craft with *The Play That Goes Wrong*. He extends his heartfelt thanks to his friends, family, and community for their continued love and support, and to you, the audience, for entrusting us with your time, imagination, and inner child. To the cast, crew, and incredible director: thank you for creating such a beautiful sense of family and community. Your support means more than you will ever know. Enjoy the show—and let the chaos begin!



Matt Shofner (Dennis/Perkins) is a performing artist, director, and producer who has been fortunate to spend a lot of time playing in theatres throughout Richmond, NYC, Japan, and other random places that include a canyon and the open sea. Some favorite stage roles include Willy Wonka (*Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, VA Rep), Jeff (*Which Way to the Stage*, RTP), Hedwig (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, TheatreLAB), Bobby Strong (*Urinetown: The Musical*, TheatreLAB), Aldolpho (*The Drowsy Chaperone*, Swift Creek Mill Theatre), and a handful of classic characters on Disney Cruise Line. Matt is a graduate of VCU Arts and a co-founder and current Executive Director of Yes,

And! Theatrical Company (@yesandrva).



Amanda Spellman, she/her, (Annie) A Washington, DC native, Amanda moved to Richmond in 2019 and was last seen as Harriet in Jewish Family Theatre's production of *Broken Glass* and Judy in RTP's *Artsie*- nominated production of *Which Way to the Stage*. She has previously worked with Firehouse Theatre, NextStop Theatre Company, Maryland Ensemble Theatre, Chamberlayne Actors Theatre, and Annapolis Shakespeare. BA Theatre and Dance, James Madison University. To the moon and back, Michael.



Joel White (Max/Cecil/Arthur) is tickled pink to be back with Virginia Rep, and is humbled to finally tread the boards at the November. A lawyer by day and actor by night, you may have seen Joel in *Baskerville* and Moriarty as part of Rep's Barksdale season at Hanover Tavern, or with Richmond Shakespeare in *The Comedy of Errors*, *Cyrano*, *Macbeth*, and most recently as Orlando in *As You Like It*. Joel is also active with Bridge 9 Theater and serves on the 5th Wall Theatre board of directors. Love as always to Rachel, and to you for patronizing the arts.



Lindsey Zelli, she/her, (Sandra/Florence) is ecstatic to be making her debut on the November stage and to once again be working with VA Rep, having last appeared as Sylvia in the Hanover Tavern staging of *The Cottage*. Other local credits include RTCC-winning roles as Percy in *The Spitfire Grill* and Mrs. Manningham in *Gaslight* (both with Swift Creek Mill Theater), Jessie in *Cry It Out* (Yes, And!), as well as Yelena in *Uncle Vanya* and Celimene in *The School for Lies* (both with Richmond Shakespeare). New York credits include Janet Van de Graaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. Much love to her incredibly supportive family and friends, with a

Paul Takács, he/him, (Director) is a Richmond, VA based director and most recently directed *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* for Virginia Repertory Theatre. Other local credits include Anne Washburn's *Mr. Burns* for VCU's Department of Theatre & Dance and the premiere of Andrew Gall's *Burial Tax* for Firehouse Theatre. Previous credits for Virginia Repertory Theatre are: Ira Levin's *Deathtrap*, Mo Willems and Deborah Wicks La Puma's *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!*, Roald Dahl's *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* and Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*. He was the founding Artistic Director of The Shop in New York City, where he directed the New York premieres of David Harrower's *Knives in Hens* for The Shop at 59E59 Theaters and Philip Ridley's *Dark Vanilla Jungle* at HERE Arts Center. Other credits for The Shop include the U.S. premieres of Jon Fosse's *I Am The Wind* translated by Simon Stephens and Philip Ridley's *Tender Napalm*, both at 59E59 Theaters. Other work: The world premiere of David Pinski's Yiddish play *Professor Brenner* and the premiere of a new translation of Peretz Hirschbein's Yiddish play *Carcass* both for the New Worlds Theatre Project at HERE Arts Center, NYC. He holds a BA in Drama from St. Mary's College of Maryland and an MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama. Paul is currently Head of Upper School Theatre at St. Christopher's School in Richmond, VA and Artistic Director of Ampersand, the joint theatre company of St. Christopher's and St. Catherine's Schools. www.paultakacsdirector.com

Daniel Conway (Scenic Designer) has designed for regional theaters such as Ford's, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Repertory, Cincinnati Playhouse, American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.), The Shakespeare Theatre, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Arena Stage, Signature Theatre, and South Coast Rep. He is the set designer for Penn and Teller on both Broadway at the Marquis theatre and for their long running show in Las Vegas. He has been nominated for 16 Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Set Design and received the award four times. He is the recipient of The Anderson/ Hopkins Award for outstanding contributions to Washington, D.C. Theatres and in 2019 he was one of three featured American set designers at The Prague Quadrennial Exhibition of Design and Performance Art.

Sarah Grady (Costume Design) has been designing costumes for Richmond audiences since 2004. Recent designs include *Deathtrap*, *Flat Stanley*, and *Waitress* (Virginia Rep) and True West (Cadence). She worked as a Costumer on the Pharrell Williams movie "*Atlantis*", Apple TV's *Swagger* and AMC's *The Walking Dead: World Beyond*. She was the Assistant Costume Director for Virginia Repertory Theatre for 17 years. Favorite designs include *Sister Act*, *West Side Story* (RTCC Award for Best Costume Design), *In the Heights*, *Dreamgirls* (RTCC Award for Best Costume Design), *Junie B. Jones*, *The Music Man*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Sound of Music* (Virginia Rep); *Fun Home*, *Violet*, *The Mountaintop*, *Caroline or Change*, and *Appropriate* (Cadence). For three lucky summers, Sarah traveled to Roma, Italy, to work with the Operafestival di Roma, where

she coordinated the costumes for *The Magic Flute*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Die Fledermaus*. She has also worked at the University of Richmond, VCU Opera, TheatreVirginia and Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Alia Radabaugh, she/they, (Wig Designer) is a TheatreVCU alumnus and Richmond native who is continually elated to be here. When she isn't sculpting coifs or crafting costumes, she works as a fiber artist, design consultant, and is the Theatrical Costumes and Makeup Instructor at Appomattox Regional Governor's School, as well as their resident costumer. Recent wiggy Rep work includes *The Cottage* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. Other design credits include *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Homefront Players) and *Pump Boys & Dinettes* (Swift Creek Mill Theater). See more of her work in *Pride and Prejudice* with Homefront Players thru 09/27! Special thanks to Maura, Jacob, and viewers like you for supporting local theater!

BJ Wilkinson, he/him, (Lighting Design) received his B.A. from the University of Northern Colorado, and his M.F.A. from the University of Cincinnati-CCM. He has designed over 80 Productions for Richmond stages. Recent designs include *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Misery*, and *After December* (Virginia Rep) *Witchduck*, *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Firehouse Theatre) *A Chorus Line*, and *Let the Right One In* (Theatre VCU) *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Richmond Shakespeare.) He serves as Head of Lighting for VCU. Visit www.bjwlightingdesign.com for more!

Jonathan Pratt, he/him, (Sound Design) - Jonathan is thrilled to be designing again at Virginia Rep where some of his recent designs include *Come From Away*, *The Cottage*, *Flat Stanley the Musical*, *Deathtrap*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Waitress*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Ken Ludwig's Moriarty* and *Baskerville*, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, *On Air*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, the latter three winning the RTCC Award for Outstanding Sound Design of a Musical. Other favorite local design credits include: *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Minutes*, and *Machinal* (William and Mary), *Cry It Out* (Yes, And!), and *Sunset Baby* (BVTA). Jonathan has also designed over 40 productions for Camelot Theatre in Talent, Oregon. Jonathan is a proud member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association.

Casey Kaleba, he/him, (Fight & Movement Direction) has arranged violence, slapstick, and intimacy for nearly 600 productions, most recently at Pennsylvania Shakespeare (*Romeo & Juliet*), Wolf Trap Opera (*Tosca*), and Signature Theatre (*Merrily We Roll Along*). He has worked throughout the country, including Northern Stage, Washington National Opera, Ford's Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Spoleto Festival USA, Guthrie Theatre, and he smashed fruit with swords on the YouTube channel *Men At Arms: Reforged*. A Fight Director and Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, Casey currently teaches at both William & Mary and the University of Mary Washington. For more of his work go to www.ToothAndClawCombat.com

Ginnie Willard, she/her, (Production Stage Manager) is happy to return to her stage management roots at Virginia Rep, where she also serves on the staff as Production Manager. Selected stage management credits include *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Mary Poppins*, *Dreamgirls*, *Into The Woods*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Seussical*, *the Musical*, and *Peter Pan* for Virginia Rep; *Spring Awakening*, *Clybourne Park*, and multiple University Dancers Concerts for the University of Richmond's Department of Theatre and Dance; *Live Art* (2012-2018) for SPARC. Ginnie is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the Stage Managers' Association.

Lexi Christie, she/her, (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be part of the team on *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. Her past credits with Virginia Rep include *Come From Away* (ASM), *Primary Trust* (SM), and *A Christmas Carol* (ASM). Prior to moving to Richmond, Lexi worked for five summers with Charlottesville Opera as an assistant/production stage manager and assistant director. Some of her favorite shows with the opera include *Scalia/Ginsburg* (PSM), *The Pirates of Penzance* (AD), *Carmen* (ASM), and *Tosca* (ASM). Lexi would like to thank her partner, Annie, her friends, and her cats, Hamlet, Cortado, and Brego, for all of their love and support.

NOVEMBER THEATRE
ARENSTEIN STAGE

JESSE BOGESE
ARTS EXPERIENCES

VIRGINIA **rep**

A VA REP'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS
ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY RICK HAMMERLY

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NOV 18 – DEC 27

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LEADERSHIP



RICK HAMMERLY

Artistic Director

Rick has worked as an award-winning actor, director, filmmaker, and arts manager with more than three decades of

experience, formerly based in Washington, DC.

Since relocating to Richmond and joining the leadership team at Virginia Repertory Theatre, he has directed *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (for which he received an RTCC Award for Best Direction of a Musical), *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Waitress*, *Misery*, *Martha Mitchell Calling*, *After December*, and most recently adapted and directed VA Rep's *A Christmas Carol*. In addition, he received a 2018 Helen Hayes Award for his direction of *Lela & Co.* and a 2020 Helen Hayes Award nomination for his direction of *Agnes of God*, both for Factory 449. Other directing credits include *Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue's The Brontes* (New York Musical Theatre Festival), *Reykjavik* (Rorschach Theatre), *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (WSC Avant Bard), *Driving Miss Daisy* featuring Karen Grassle (Riverside Center for the Performing Arts), *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* (Adventure Theatre MTC), *Dead Man Walking* (American University), and *Closet Land* (Factory 449).

As an actor, he has performed Off-Broadway and regionally, receiving a Helen Hayes Award for his turn as Hedwig in Signature Theatre's production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, as well as nominations for his work in *Angels in America* (Signature Theatre), *Me and Jezebel* (MetroStage) and *Oliver!* (Adventure Theatre MTC). For ten years, he played Mr. Fezziwig in Ford's Theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and was most recently seen as Miss Tracy Mills in Round House Theatre's *The Legend of Georgia McBride*.

He is a founder and Producing Artistic Director of Factory 449, the recipient of multiple Helen Hayes Awards, including the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company, and the Executive Director of the Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archive (WAPAVA). For Idle Rich Productions, he wrote, directed, and produced *signage*, his debut film, which screened in over 60 film festivals world wide, garnered 5 festival awards, and was purchased by MTV and programmed on their LOGO channel.

Rick is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA). He received a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Virginia, an M.A. in Film & Video Production from American University, and has completed the coursework for an M.A. in Arts Management, also from AU.

Biography coming shortly.



LYNN M. STIRRUP

Interim Managing Director

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Accountability Statement

Since 2020, Virginia Repertory Theatre has been intentional in our efforts to become an artistic home that is multicultural in representation and where everyone is welcomed and included. We still have much work to do and continue to commit to doing our part to dismantle systems of oppression, not only in the theatre community, but everywhere it is present.

Our Commitment

We commit to examining our organizational culture to assure that we are an artistic home centered on anti-racist and anti-oppression practices. We will actively pursue and embrace inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in all aspects of art, business, and life in our community.

We will intentionally make space for the diverse voices of our board, staff, artists, and theatre community.

We will seek to include and reflect on the varied experiences of our community to ensure everyone has access to live theatre that entertains, inspires, and challenges. We will be mindful of Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC); Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI); People with Disabilities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ (LGBTQ+), and other marginalized communities in our efforts and we will actively seek to learn from them.

We make these commitments to the theatre community and to the community at large and we ask that they take this journey with us and hold us accountable.

We will commit to implement our action plan so that
we can honestly say:

At Virginia Repertory Theatre, everyone has a voice.

At our theatre, everyone is welcomed and included.

*Please refer to the Social Justice section of our website for
our full Anti-Racism Commitment & Accountability Statement
and our history in support of racial equity.*

OUR MISSION

Our Mission: To entertain, challenge, and uplift our communities through the power of live theatre. To that end, we seek national caliber excellence in the arts, education, and community health and leadership.

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Zoe and Ben Bunnell
Pamela and Keith Carney
Melanie Cole
Susan and John Davenport
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Elizabeth and Andrew Kerr
Pat Kibler
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Peggy Lee
Yasmin Lutterbie
David Marchette
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