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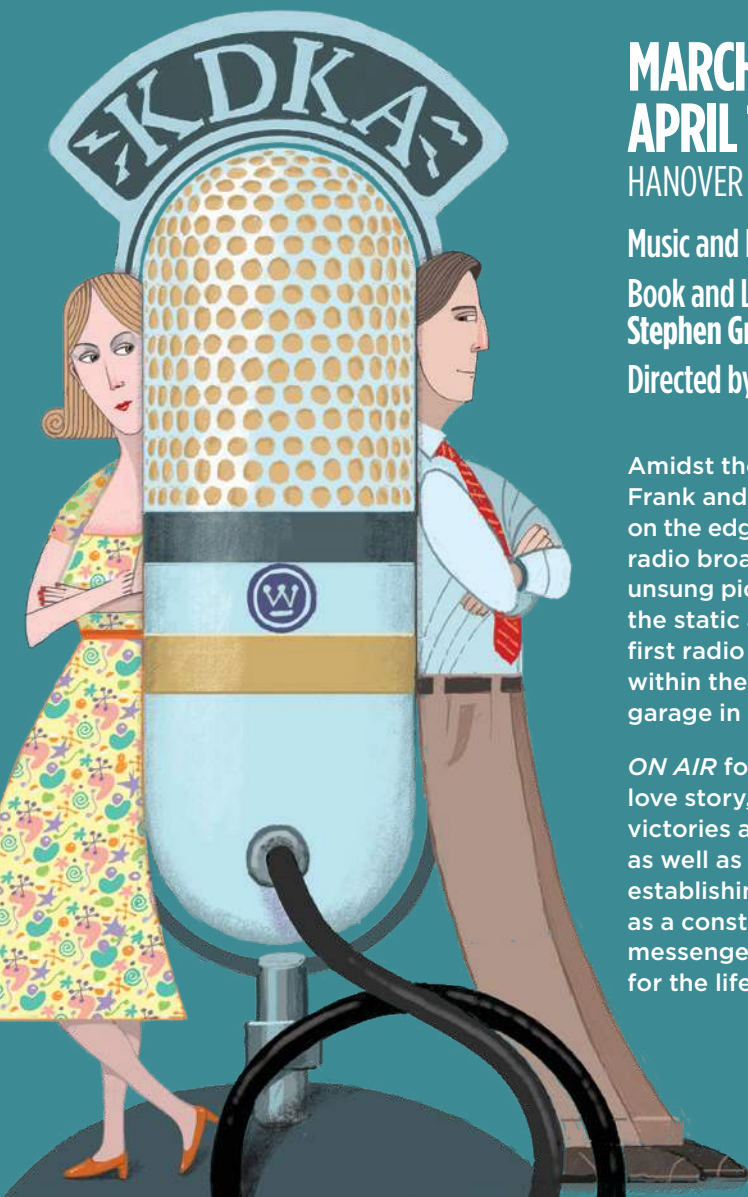
VIRGINIA
rep



SATCHMO

AT THE WALDORF

ON AIR



**MARCH 15 -
APRIL 14**
HANOVER TAVERN

Music and Lyrics by **Matt Conner**
Book and Lyrics by
Stephen Gregory Smith
Directed by **Todd D. Norris**

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VIRGINIA
rep

SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF

BY **TERRY TEACHOUT**

SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service Inc., New York

SCENIC DESIGN
Mercedes Schaum

COSTUME DESIGN
Sue Griffin

LIGHTING DESIGN
Joe Doran+

SOUND DESIGN
Jonathan Pratt

STAGE MANAGEMENT
Donna Warfield*

DIRECTION
Rick Hammerly^

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 Altria

CAST

Louis Armstrong/Joe Glaser/Miles Davis **Jerold E. Solomon***
U/S Louis Armstrong/Joe Glaser/Miles Davis **David Watkins***

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Assistant Stage Manager **Leica Long**
Wardrobe Supervisor **Tajma Graham**
Audio Engineer **Justice Craig, Jonathan Pratt°, Trusten Murrah°**
Light Board Operator **Dennis Cheeks, Griffin Hardy°**
Photographer **Aaron Suttan**
Videographer **Austin Lewis**

°Substituting at select performances

SPECIAL THANKS

Roberts Oxygen

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

 *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.

MUSIC CREDITS

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COMPANY BIOS



Jerold E. Solomon (Louis Armstrong/Joe Glaser/Miles Davis) is an actor/director/writer. Jerold, alongside co-writers Foster Solomon and Ron Klipp, is currently developing a new American musical about Gabriel's Slave Rebellion of 1800. A native Virginian, he has spent the bulk of his career performing across the country. Some credits include: Broadway: *South Pacific* (Lincoln Center). Off-Broadway: *Bare* (New World Stages). National Tours: *Ragtime*, *Big River*, and *Annie*. Regional: *Ragtime*

(Diamond Head); *Dreamgirls*, *The Wiz*, *The Color Purple*, *The Whipping Man*, *Sweet Charity*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Gross Indecency*, and *Olympus on My Mind* (Virginia Rep); *Mountaintop* and *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Cadence/Virginia Rep); *Once On This Island* and *25th Annual Putnum Spelling Bee* (Paper Mill); *Cutman* (Goodspeed); *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Inside Broadway); *Henry V* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (RSF); *The Lost Colony* and many others. TV/Film; *30 Rock*, *Law and Order*, and *Kings* (NBC); *The Unusuals* (ABC); *Hiding Divya* (Desipina). In addition to serving as co-author of *Gabriel*, Jerold has a BFA in Theater Performance from VCU and currently teaches theater in Henrico County Public Schools.



David Watkins, he/him, (U/S Louis Armstrong/Joe Glaser/ Miles Davis) this is his November Theatre/Arenstein Stage debut. Theatre includes: Broadway WS: *The Harder They Come* (The Public Theatre), *Bayard Rustin Inside Ashland* (The People's Light), *Hustle the Musical* (The Arc), *Destiny* (Adrienne Theatre), *Exonerate* (NC Rep) Film/TV credits include: *Voices of Fire* (Netflix), *Whitney* (Lifetime), *Repetition Rhapsody* (NBC). David is an alum of NCA&TSU theatre program and has musical theatre certification from

Disney. David is also an accomplished musician as well as the lead singer of the platinum group Ready For The World. He continually thanks God, Janine, and Justice for the many blessings, love, and support.

Rick Hammerly, he/him, (Director) See biography on Leadership page.

Mercedes Schaum (Scenic Designer) is so excited to be collaborating with Rick Hammerly again. Mercedes has been designing and painting in Richmond for 20 years. Recent designs include *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *She Persisted*, *Elephant and Piggie: We are in a Play!*, and *GOLD: The Midas Musical* for Virginia Rep; *A Soldier's Play* for Swift Creek Mill Theatre; and *The Magic Flute* for VCU Opera. Favorite past designs include *Annie*, *Honk!*, *A Christmas Story*, *Mame*, *The BFG*, *Song of Mulan*, *Into the Woods*, *Bunnica*, *The Magic Flute*, and *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* for Virginia Rep. *Peter and The Starcatcher* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, and many more for SPARC. She has a BFA from JMU in theatre and an MFA in set design from the University of Illinois. When she's not working in the theatre, Mercedes is raising four kids with her husband, Jason Alley, and looking for new challenges and prepping for crazy family adventures!

COMPANY BIOS

Sue Griffin (Costume Designer) has headed up the Virginia Rep costume department for the last nineteen years. Over this time, the shop has produced costumes for more than 300 shows, from traveling fairy tales to major musicals. With the help of the full time shop, hundreds of costumes, wigs, shoes and hats are sent out on a stage or packed up on tour. Some of the most memorable shows include *1776*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Color Purple*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

Joe Doran (Lighting Designer) Virginia Rep: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Silver Belles*, *Once*, *Fun Home* (Cadence/Virginia Rep), *In the Heights*, *A Christmas Story*, *Dreamgirls*, *South Pacific*, *The Color Purple*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*. Broadway (Asst. LD): *Summer*, *The Donna Summer Musical*, *Prince of Broadway*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Magic/Bird*. National Tours: *Hamilton*, *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story*, *Flashdance the Musical*, *In the Heights*. Off Broadway: *Chanteuse*, *H4*, and *Shakespeare's Slave*. NYC Dance: Sean Curran Company, Armitage Gone! Dance, Stephen Petronio Company, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and Martha Graham Dance Company, among others. Regional Credits: Red Mountain Theatre, Bristol Riverside Theatre, The Fulton Theatre, Alpine Theatre Project, The Richmond Ballet, The Atlanta Ballet, and Swift Creek Mill Theatre. 2008, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and 2023 recipient of Richmond's "Artsies" Award. Graduate of NC School of the Arts and member of USA Local 829. www.joedorandesign.com

Jonathan Pratt, he/him, (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be designing again at Virginia Rep after designing sound for *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and projections for *The Santa Clues* over the holidays in addition to being the Audio/Visual Manager for the company. Previously, he was the resident sound and projection designer for Camelot Theatre in Talent, Oregon where some of his favorite designs include *Something Rotten*; *Hello, Dolly!*; *Almost, Maine*; *Matilda the Musical*; and *Catch Me If You Can*. In addition to design, Jonathan directed *Catch Me If You Can* and wrote and directed tribute shows to Stephen Sondheim and Motown in addition to adapting and directing productions of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; *War of the Worlds*; *Jane Eyre*; *Dracula*; and *Alice in Wonderland*.

Donna Warfield, she/her, (Stage Manager) joined Virginia Rep on staff as Company Manager in 2022. As Company Manager, she primarily oversees Virginia Rep on Tour, bringing theatre to kids all over Virginia and beyond. She is excited to be working in this beautiful venue again after making her November Theatre debut earlier this season with *POTUS*. Other notable past

COMPANY BIOS

stage management credits include *Gold* (Virginia Rep), *Jersey Boys* (Norwegian Creative Studios), *The Nutcracker* (Atlanta Ballet - Fox Theatre/Kennedy Center), and *Hair* (Serenbe Playhouse). Donna would like to thank her partner Ben, her mom and brothers, and her friends near and far for their endless support.

Leica Long (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to return to Virginia Rep following her work on *The Silver Belles*. She recently graduated from VCUarts, where she got a BFA in Theatre Stage Management. Leica's PSM credits include *Annabelle* (Firehouse), and *Men on Boats* (VCU). She also worked as an ASM on *POTUS* and *After December* (Virginia Rep), *Vanessa* (Spoleto Festival), and *How I Learned to Drive* (The Conciliation Lab).

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terry Teachout (1956-2022)

Terry Teachout was the drama critic of *The Wall Street Journal*, the critic-at-large of *Commentary*, and the author of "Sightings," a biweekly column for the *Friday Journal* about the arts in America. He wrote about the arts on his blog, "About Last Night" (www.terryteachout.com).

SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF, his first play, was commercially produced Off-Broadway in 2014 and has also been staged in Lenox, Los Angeles, New Haven, Orlando, and Philadelphia. He has also written the libretti for three operas by Paul Moravec: "The Letter," "Danse Russe," and "The King's Man." His books include "Duke: A Life of Duke Ellington," "Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong," "All in the Dances: A Brief Life of George Balanchine," "The Skeptic: A Life of H.L. Mencken," and "A Terry Teachout Reader." He served on the National Council on the Arts from 2004 to 2010 and received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2012.



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 Technical Directors Thomas Hawfield, Hans Paul
 Carpenter Shawn Goodman
 Carpentry Apprentice Hannah Pateson
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RICK HAMMERLY

*Artistic Director
of Programming*

Rick has worked as an award-winning, DC-based actor, director, filmmaker, and arts manager for over

three decades. Since moving to Richmond and joining Virginia Repertory Theatre's artistic team, he has directed *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, for which he received an RTCC Award for Best Direction of a Musical, *Martha Mitchell Calling*, and *After December*. 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).



TODD D. NORRIS

*Artistic Director
of Education*

Todd is a director, actor, writer, educator, and presenter who has worked in regional, academic, and

museum theatre for over 30 years. He is past president of the International Museum Theatre Alliance and he appears regularly in museum theatre programs at Historic Jamestowne.

Todd comes to Virginia Rep from the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, IN — the world's largest children's museum — where he spent seven years serving first as Director of Interpretation and then Associate Vice President of Interpretation and Family Programs. In these roles, he was responsible for artistic direction for its professional children's theatre seasons, fiscal management, coordinating gallery performances, and overseeing quality for hundreds of daily programs.

Earlier in his career, Todd worked at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as Senior Manager of Performance Interpretation. While at Colonial

Williamsburg, he also acted in several episodes of their Emmy-Award winning *Electronic Field Trips*, and directed and performed in many evening programs and special events.

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 the current 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).

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.

He has taught and directed at several schools including The College of William and Mary, Christopher Newport University, Alice Lloyd College, and Wright State University. Favorite previous directing assignments include *Humble Boy*, *Tales of Olympus*, *Eleemosynary*, and the world premiere of *The Santa Clues*.

He is originally from Powell, OH, and received his M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Louisville and his B.A. in Theatre Performance, with a minor in music from the University of Findlay.

His responsibilities at Virginia Rep include artistic direction of all family mainstage productions in the Jessie Bogese Theatre and all educational touring productions for Virginia Rep On Tour, as well as supervision for all of Virginia Rep's educational offerings including our camps, classes, residencies, and workshops. Todd is also an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.



DESIRÉE ROOTS

*Artistic Director
of Community*

Desirée has showcased her triple threat talent for over 35 years as an active member of the Gospel,

Jazz, and Theatre scenes regionally, nationally, internationally, and in Richmond, VA where she grew up. She started singing in church when she was four, and started her professional theatrical career at age 13. Growing up in a musical family, it was only natural that she follow in her performing parents' footsteps.

Desirée has performed throughout the East Coast with orchestras, jazz ensembles, and as leader of her own ensembles. She's been the opening act for internationally renowned artists including Boney James, Brian McKnight, the late Phyllis Hyman, and B. B. King. She is a Grammy nominated recording artist and has produced shows she wrote including *Ella at 100* in honor of the First Lady of Jazz, Ms. Ella Fitzgerald's 100th birthday. She received the Theresa Pollak award for "Vocal Excellence" in 2014.

Along with performing, Desirée has had a long standing career in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. Upon receiving her B.A. from Virginia Union University, she initially embarked on a teaching path. This quickly evolved into other opportunities such as a Programming Manager for Richmond Jazz Society, Inc., Booking Manager for Downtown Presents (now Venture Richmond), and client liaison for Drake Beam & Morin, a Fortune 500 corporation. She has also been an educator and music facilitator privately and within the Henrico and Richmond Public school systems for over 20 years.

Desirée began her association with Virginia Rep as a high school intern when the company was Theatre IV with the unique mission "to seek national-caliber excellence equally in four areas: the arts, education, children's health, and community leadership."

These four pillars of service are what drew her to become *Artistic Director of Community* – "working with the theatre company I love to serve the community I love."



AMY WRATCHFORD

*Interim Managing
Director*

After more than a decade as Managing Director for the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA,

Amy Wratchford pivoted in early 2021 to launch The Wratchford Group, a nationally known arts management consultancy with regional theater clients throughout Virginia as well as Florida, California and Chicago

As the chief administrative and financial officer at the American Shakespeare Center, Amy oversaw finance, marketing, development, and other business management functions for ASC.

Before joining ASC, Amy served as Managing Director of Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta. Previously, she worked for 13 years in a number of capacities in theatre in New York City including producer, director, and actor. Amy regularly serves on grant panels, including the National Endowment for the Arts and Virginia Commission for the Arts, as well as adjudicating panels, including EdTA China's 2019 National Young

Thespian Festival in Shanghai as well as state and regional community theatre festivals.

Amy is an elected member of the Staunton City School Board and serves on the Shenandoah LGBTQ Center's Community Advisory Board. She teaches a dual-enrollment Intro to Theatre course at the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School and routinely lectures on finance, budgeting, and nonprofit governance for Mary Baldwin University's MFA program in Shakespeare and Performance and others. Amy holds a bachelor's degree in Acting from the Tisch School of the Arts of New York University and a master's in fine arts degree in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College.

Amy has been immersed in the Virginia theater scene for 13 years and has a history with Virginia Rep, having participated in several of our strategic planning processes. She has an incredible passion for the arts, deep compassion for the people who make a theater run, and a keen understanding of the role we play within our community. Her expertise in interim theater leadership, financial analysis and organizational structure assessment and reorganization is precisely what we need right now as we chart an exciting future and launch a national search for our next 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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