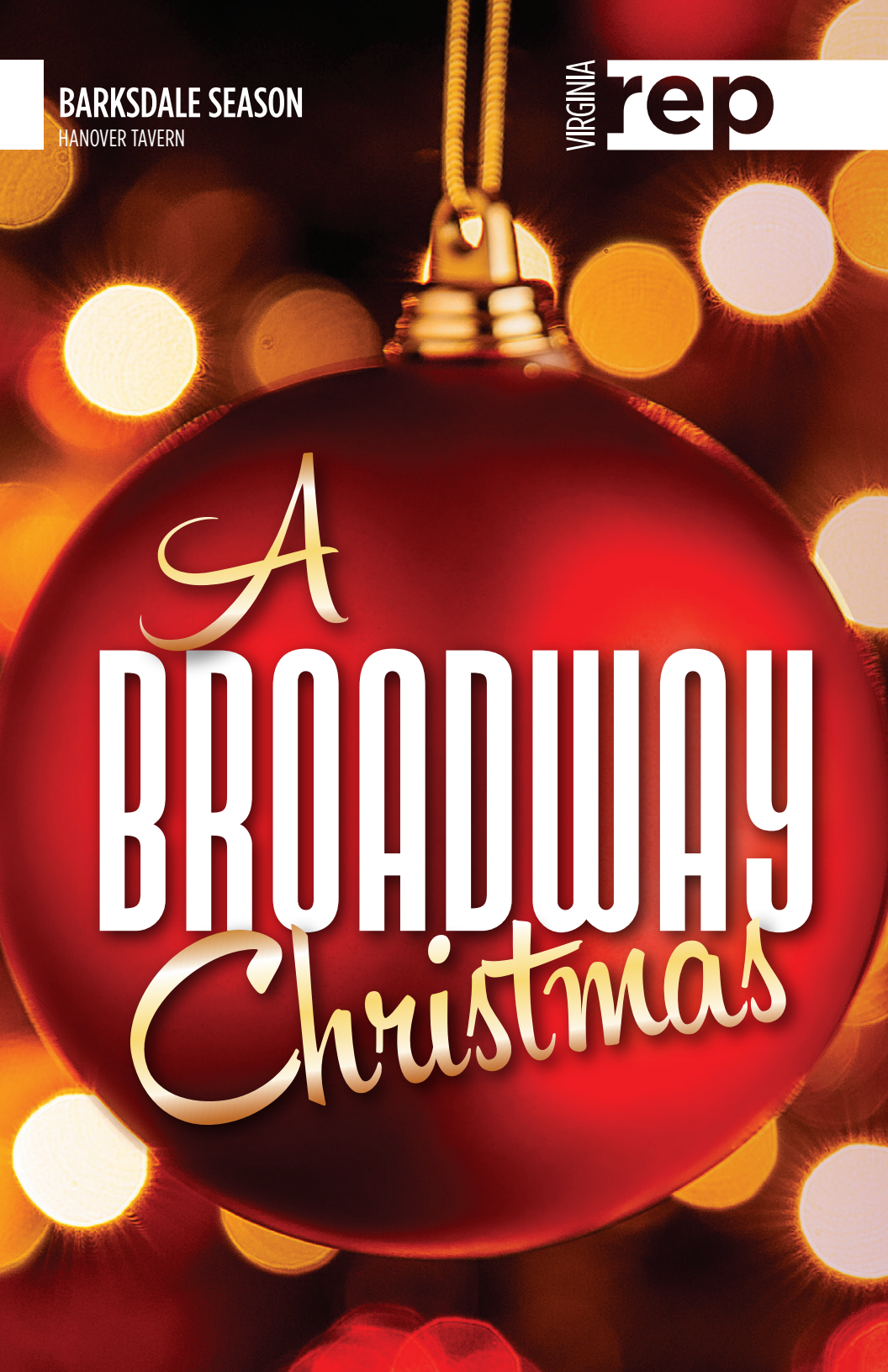


BARKSDALE SEASON  
HANOVER TAVERN

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*A*  
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*Christmas*

Celebrating  
A Beautiful Friendship

# ANYTHING GOES *Gala*

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February 25, 2023  
6:00 pm

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# A BROADWAY Christmas

MUSIC SUPERVISOR  
AND CURATOR  
**Jason Marks**

MUSIC DIRECTOR/  
ACCOMPANIST  
**Ryan Corbitt**

LIGHTING DESIGN  
**Matt Landwehr**

STAGE MANAGEMENT  
**Emily Kimoto**

DIRECTION  
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 Altria

## FEATURED ARTISTS

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**Jessi Johnson Peterson** December 2 - 9  
**Bianca Bryan** December 10 - 18  
**Debra Wagoner** December 21 - 24  
**Katrinah Carol Lewis** December 28 - January 1

## COMPANY (in rotation throughout the run)

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**Kelsey Cordrey**  
**Emily Dandridge**  
**Keydron Dunn**  
**Lily Gast**

**Gordon Graham**  
**Robert Phanord**  
**Lindy Pokorny**

## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

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Assistant Stage Manager ..... **Amber Hooper**  
Wardrobe Coordinators ..... **Sue Griffin, Marcia Miller Hailey**  
Audio Engineer ..... **Will Fisher**  
Photographer ..... **Aaron Suttan**  
Videographer ..... **Austin Lewis**

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

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Ryan Corbitt and Westwood Music Club.

And these composers for the use of their songs:

“Nothing Rhymes with Christmas” - Lyrics & Music by Julian Fleischer

“Shalom, Santa” - Lyrics by Tom Toce, Music by Douglas J. Cohen

“Merry Kwanz-Ukah!” - Music & Lyrics by Bob Bray

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## FEATURED ARTISTS BIOS

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**Jessi Johnson Peterson**, she/her/hers, is a vocalist, actor, model, and voiceover talent. Recent credits include Glinda in *The Wiz* (Virginia Rep); Vanessa in *Significant Other*, and Bart Simpson in *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* (TheatreLAB); Mary in *Mary C. Brown and the Hollywood Sign* (Firehouse Theatre); Annie Shepard in *It Shoulda Been You* (Richmond Triangle Players); and the Radio in *Caroline, or Change* (Cadence/Virginia Rep). Jessi is excited to perform at Hanover Tavern in *A Broadway Christmas* and to share in this holiday celebration with the community.



**Bianca Bryan**, she/her/hers, is a local actor/singer/voiceover artist. Local theater highlights: *Urinetown* (Lockstock, RTCC Best Actress in a Musical award); *Taming of the Shrew* (Petruccio, RTCC Best Actress nomination); *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett, RTCC Best Actress nomination); *How I Learned to Drive* (Female Greek Chorus); *Wings* (Emily, RTCC Best Actress in a Musical award); *Hedwig and The Angry Inch* (Yitzhak, RTCC Best Supporting nomination); *Grounded* (The Pilot, RTCC Best Actress nomination); *Assassins* (Sarah Jane Moore, RTCC Best Supporting nomination); *Caroline, or Change* (Rose, RTCC Best Supporting nomination). On TV, she hosts *Real Virginia* Saturday mornings on FOX. You also can hear her daily as 'the voice' for VPM radio (88.9 & 107.3), and during baseball season as the Flying Squirrels PA Announcer! Brooklyn College (M.F.A.), Manhattan School of Music (B.M.). Love to Chris, and to her kiddos Trace and Annella: being your mom is my favorite role ever! IG: @voiceoverva/ [www.biancabryan.com](http://www.biancabryan.com)



**Debra Wagoner**, she/her/hers, is delighted, as always, to be back at the historic Hanover Tavern and working with the Virginia Rep family. She has received critical praise for her body of work, including RTCC awards for playing dual roles in *The Toxic Avenger* (5th Wall Theatre) and Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown* (Swift Creek Mill Theatre). Previous Virginia Rep credits include Sister Mary Amnesia in *Nunsense*, Florence Foster Jenkins in *Souvenir*, the title role in *Always, Patsy Cline*, Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins*, and Miss Shingle in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. She sends all her love to her husband, Joe, and their family of adopted cats and dogs, and wishes her friends and family the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year!



**Katrinah Carol Lewis**, she/her/hers, is an award-winning actress, singer, director, playwright, and historical interpreter dedicated to connecting with artists and audiences in service of a more empathetic world. Acting highlights include: Nora (*A Doll's House, Part 2*, RTCC Best Lead Performance nomination), Ruth (*A Raisin in the Sun*), Sunshine (*River Ditty*), and Nettie (*The Color Purple*) with Virginia Rep; Camae (*The Mountaintop*, RTCC Best Actress nomination) and Kate (*Good People*) with Cadence Theatre; Nora (*A Doll's House*, RTCC Best Actress nomination), Billie Holiday (*Lady Day...*, RTCC Best Actress - Musical award), Marianne (*The Revolutionists*, RTCC Best Actress nomination), and *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (RTCC Best Actress nomination) with TheatreLAB. Katrinah is also a regular featured vocalist at Unity of Richmond, former interim Co-Artistic Director of Virginia Rep, and acting Artistic Director of Museum Theatre at Colonial Williamsburg. B.F.A.- TheatreVCU. With love and gratitude, namaste.

## COMPANY BIOS

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**Kelsey Cordrey**, she/her/hers, is an actor, singer, director, and sound designer based in Richmond. Favorite regional acting credits include Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act* (RTCC Best Supporting Actress in a Musical nominee, Virginia Rep); Little Sally in *Urinetown* (RTCC Best Supporting Actress in a Musical award), Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*, Daphna in *Bad Jews* (RTCC Best Actress in a Play nominee), Claryssa in *Moth*, and Diwata in *Speech & Debate* at TheatreLAB; Dr. Charlotte in *Falsettos* and Nadia in *bare: a pop opera* (RTCC Best Supporting Actress in a Musical award) at Richmond Triangle Players; The Red Queen in *Alice: A New Musical* and Heather in *Green Day's American Idiot* at Firehouse Theatre. Training: New York University's Tisch School of the Arts – New Studio on Broadway and Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology. "Love and thanks to family, friends, and my new wife, Margaret!"



**Emily Dandridge**, she/her/hers, is the Cultural Arts Specialist for the City of Richmond. From 2011 - 2020, she was the Associate Artistic Director for Richmond Ballet's Outreach program, *Minds In Motion*. Favorite performed roles include *The Suspects*, *Murder For Two* (RTCC Best Lead Performance and Best Musical awards, Swift Creek Mill Theater); Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street* (Dogwood Dell); Velma in *West Side Story* (Virginia Rep); Lola in *Damn Yankees* (JFT); Judy Haynes in *White Christmas* (Footlight Players). As choreographer, she received RTCC Best Choreography nominations for *Carrie* (5th Wall Theater), *Toxic Avenger* (5th Wall Theater), and *Preludes* (Firehouse Theater).



**Keydron Dunn**, he/him/his, is originally from Snow Hill, NC. He holds a B.A. in Theater from UNCG. He is glad to call Richmond his home and is having his debut on Hanover Tavern stage. He was recently in *War in Pieces*; *Julie*, *Monster* RVABaroque; and *Gabriel* all at the Firehouse Theatre. He thanks his Church family of St. Paul's Episcopal on Grace and 9th, and his family and friends for all their love and support. "Please be swift to love and walk in the Light. Merry Christmas."



**Lily Gast**, she/her/hers, is a graduate of The University of Northern Iowa where she earned a B.A. in Theatre Performance. She recently appeared on the St. Croix Festival Theatre stage in Wisconsin. Productions include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marcy Park), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), and *The Mousetrap* (Miss Casewell). Her vocal training began at the age of 4, courtesy of her parents who are both vocal professors. In 2021, she won the title of Grand Champion at the Bill Riley Talent Search which she had been participating in for 17 years. Lily is new to the state of Virginia and is delighted to make her debut at Virginia Rep.

## COMPANY BIOS

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**Gordon Graham**, he/him/his, is filled with rapturous euphoria making his debut at the Hanover Tavern! Recently, Gordon stumbled into the Swift Creek Mill Theatre and they slapped a policemen's uniform on him in their production of *Gaslight*. And before that, he had the privilege to play Master Slang in *She Stoops To Conquer* at Agecroft Hall. You may have even seen him while

touring in Virginia Rep's productions of *I Have a Dream* and *The 3 Little Pigs* last spring. Gordon would like to thank Irene and Jason for giving him this opportunity, his friends and family for always supporting him, Ryan Rick and Lesley, his first teachers Noth and Elise for guiding him down this path, and his amazing mama!



**Robert Phanord**, he/him/his. At age 13 Robert left home for the first time to study as well as learn the life of a touring artist. While completing high school studies, Robert had the chance to perform with many groups in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore areas, including the New England Youth Ensemble which flew him out to Australia for a 3 week tour of the Australian east coast.

At 16 this would be his first far and long trip away from home, entirely on his own. Natural talent noticed by professionals earned him a full scholarship to study with Grammy award-winning Metropolitan Opera star Faith Esham. With a background in opera, Robert has worn many hats including soloist, conductor, composer, actor, director, producer... the list continues. Some of his performance work includes Edmond (*King Lear*), Walter Younger (*A Raisin in the Sun*), Figaro (*The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*), Elijah (*Elijah*), Judas (*Jesus Christ SuperStar*), and a list of others.



**Lindy Pokorny**, she/her/hers, grew up attending shows at Virginia Rep and dreaming of one day being in them; she is thrilled to make her debut with *A Broadway Christmas*. Favorite past credits include *Julie, Monster* (OC, Firehouse Theatre/RVA Baroque), *Into the Woods* (Lee Playhouse), *Celebration* (WCT), *Litmus Test* (OC, CSP), and *All Shook Up* (CSP). She has a B.A. in Theatre Performance from

Wagner College in New York City. Nothing she does would be possible without Mom, Dad, Nana, Skyler, and Sina.

## COMPANY BIOS

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**Irene Kuykendall** (Director) is an actor, director and educator with a Masters in Text & Performance from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and conservatory training from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC. As Virginia Rep's Education Manager, she spends her days instructing creative programming for children of all ages. Recent directing credits include: *GASLIGHT* (Swift Creek Mill Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Richmond Catholic Theatre); *The Good Fight* (Appomattox Regional Governor's School); *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* and *The Addams Family young@part* (Virginia Rep's Summer Showtime), *Treasure Island*; *Pinocchio* and *The Jungle Book* (Virginia Rep's Let's Put on a Show!); *Shakespeare in Love* (AD for Virginia Rep); *The Things That Haunt Us* (Quill/Strangeways); *The Project* (Love/Hate at RADA), and *PSYCHOS* (co-dir. RADA final). Irene is filled with a well of gratitude for the chance to mindfully craft this meaningful piece in collaboration with such a talented cast and crew and would like to thank her husband, Axle, for his continued love and support.

**Ryan Corbitt** (Music Director/Accompanist) is happy to be back at the Tavern after many years, having played piano in *Mona's Arrangements* (2009) and *Swingtime Canteen* (2008). He is the regular music director for Scott Wichmann's cabarets and private events and has been pianist for the Richmond Divas concerts. Ryan received the RTCC Best Musical Direction award for *Caroline, or Change* (2016) at Cadence/Virginia Rep. For Virginia Rep, he has also played in *Mary Poppins*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Dreamgirls*. He is the pianist at Tabernacle Baptist Church and is the owner of Westwood Music Club (a family music school), Grove Avenue Piano (tuning service), and Straight Ahead Samples (virtual instruments). Ryan thanks his parents for the many years of piano lessons, his wife Jessica (the Manager of Cultural Arts at Westminster Canterbury), and his daughters, Millie and Mae (who are currently in their first production, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, at Virginia Rep's Children's Theater) for their support in his role in *A Broadway Christmas!*

**Jason Marks** (Music Supervisor and Curator) is delighted to have a hand in creating the magic of *A Broadway Christmas* at Hanover Tavern. Most local audiences know Mr. Marks from his on-stage roles in Virginia Rep productions of *1776*, *The Producers*, *Shrek*, *My Fair Lady*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Seussical*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and many more. Behind-the-scenes, he has served as music director for numerous productions, and currently serves as music director for the touring department of Virginia Rep, where his original works have been seen by audiences all over the country. An award-winning vocalist and performer, Mr. Marks is a recipient of the Theresa Pollak Prize for Excellence in the Arts (Theater), awarded by *Richmond Magazine*. Special thanks to Irene for being a wonderfully collaborative spirit.

**Matt Landwehr** (Lighting Designer) Is a graduate of Minnesota State University-Mankato with a B.S. in Theatre Technology. After serving as the Associate Lighting Designer for Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, TN and the Lighting Director for the Historic Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, MI, he moved to Richmond to serve at Theatre IV/Barksdale Theatre as Production Electrician and Lighting Designer. After a multi-year run as Technical Director for SPARC's Live Art concert series he now works for Henrico Theatre as Technical Director.



## COMPANY BIOS

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**Emily Kimoto** (Stage Manager) is excited to work on her second show at Virginia Rep. She is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz with a B.A. in Theatre Tech. Some of her most recent show credits are *Steel Magnolias* at Hanover Tavern, *On Your Feet*, *Something Rotten*, *Singing in the Rain*, and the debut of *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas*, all at the Phoenix Theatre Company. Emily would like to thank her family, friends, and mentors who helped along the journey.

**Amber Hooper** (Assistant Stage Manager) studied theater at Eastern Mennonite University where she served as stage manager, costume assistant, and various other backstage roles for many shows during her four years in undergrad. Her recent credits include being Assistant Stage Manager for *Steel Magnolias*; *Barefoot in the Park*; *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*; a member of the deck crew for *Pipeline*; and the light board operator for *Ella and Her Fella Frank* at Virginia Rep.



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## LEADERSHIP



### **PHIL WHITEWAY**

*Managing Director*

Phil is a key leader in Virginia's nonprofit arts management community. He co-founded Theatre IV in 1975 as Virginia's first

professional theatre for young audiences. In 2001, he assumed the role of Managing Director of Barksdale Theatre. In 2012, he provided staff leadership as Theatre IV and Barksdale merged to form Virginia Rep, Central Virginia's flagship professional theatre. Under his management, Phil's companies have received the first *Excellence in Instruction Award* from the Virginia Board of Education, the *Dominion Shining Star Award* from Virginians for the Arts, and the *50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award* from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Phil was a founding member of the boards of the Richmond Arts Consortium and the Broad Street

Association. Under his staff leadership, Theatre IV purchased and renovated our historic November Theatre, receiving the *Community Builders Award* from the Central Richmond Association for its contribution to downtown revitalization. Phil is a graduate and past board member of Leadership Metro Richmond. He has served on the Governance Board of Partners in the Arts and as treasurer of Virginians for the Arts.

Phil has received the *Voice of the University Award* from his alma mater (University of Richmond), the Theresa Pollak "Lifetime Achievement Award" from *Richmond Magazine*, and the *Governor's Award for the Arts* from Tim Kaine. In 2000, Phil was included by *Style Weekly* among the "100 Most Influential Richmonders of the 20th Century."

Phil consults on arts management both locally and nationally. He is forever grateful for the love and support of his wife, Donna, and their four adult children—PJ, Jennings, Alex, and Gordon.



### **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."

**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.

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). In 2015/16, he was selected to participate in The Shakespeare Theatre Company's inaugural Directors' Studio program.

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*.

His debut film, *signage*, which he wrote, directed, and produced, has screened in over 60 film festivals worldwide, receiving 6 film festival awards and was subsequently licensed by MTV's LOGO Channel.

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.

**TODD D. NORRIS***Artistic Director  
of Education*

Todd is an American theatre director, educator, writer, and actor. He recently served as president of

the International Museum Theatre Alliance and continues to act as an advisor.

Todd comes to Virginia Rep from the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, IN — the world's largest children's museum — where he worked since 2013, serving as Director of Interpretation and then Associate Vice President of Interpretation and Family Programs. In these roles, he was responsible for fiscal management, artistic direction for its professional children's theatre seasons, coordinating holistic approaches to gallery performances, and overseeing quality for hundreds of daily programs.

From 2003-2013, Todd worked at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, eventually becoming 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.

Favorite previous directing assignments include *Humble Boy*, *Tales of Olympus*, *Eleemosynary*, and *The Santa Clues*.

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.

He was born in Columbus, OH, and received his M.F.A. in Acting from University of Louisville and his B.A. in Theatre Performance, with a minor in music, from the University of Findlay. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Todd will focus on programs for children, families, and schools including touring programs and arts in education. He and Desirée Roots will co-lead Virginia Rep's award-winning Community Health + Wellness program, which creates, implements and assesses model projects that demonstrate how theatre can be used as an effective tool in addressing critical educational and societal challenges.

## VIRGINIA REP STAFF

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**Artistic Dir. of Education**..... **Todd D. Norris**  
**Artistic Dir. of Programming**..... **Rick Hammerly**

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To discuss a gift, or for more information, contact Emily Cole-Jones, Director of Development, at **(804) 783-1688 x1238**, or [ecole-jones@virginiarep.org](mailto:ecole-jones@virginiarep.org).



## Virginia Repertory Theatre's History of Action in Support of Racial Equity

Since its founding as Barksdale Theatre (1953), Virginia Rep has maintained a steadfast commitment to racial equity. We proudly acknowledge the roles of our audience, artists and Boards in this hard-won legacy of progress toward inclusion, diversity, equity and access.

- 1954** In partnership with VUU, and in open defiance of Virginia's Jim Crow Laws, Barksdale welcomes Virginia's first fully integrated audience since Reconstruction.
- 1968** Barksdale casts Carl Lester as Persil-le-Noir in *Irma La Douce*, marking RVA's first hiring of a Black actor in a major supporting role, not as a servant, in a major theatre.
- 1973** To critical acclaim and sold-out houses, Barksdale stages Lorraine Hansberry's *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* as RVA's first major production focusing on Black experience.
- 1975** Theatre IV's founding mission commits to excellence in "four equal areas: the arts, education, children's health and community leadership," putting EDA front and center.
- 1978** Barksdale welcomes a guest production of *The River Niger*, a realistic family drama firmly rooted in contemporary Black experience — another first.
- 1980** Theatre IV places *A Raisin in the Sun*, staged by Black director Amini Jahari, in its inaugural season — again, a first. In subsequent seasons, we produce 42 additional mainstage shows focusing on Black or Latin experience.
- 1981** Theatre IV produces its first touring instructional play based on Black History, *Bound for Freedom*, casting Tony Cosby, Kelvin Davis and Eloise Libron in its resident touring company. In subsequent years, we create 12 additional Black History instructional titles, touring them to schools statewide and nationally.
- 1986** Theatre IV purchases and renovates the historic Empire Theatre, formerly the Booker T, as our permanent home.
- 1997** Martha Gilbert elected President of the Theatre IV Board of Directors, the first Black Board President of a major nonprofit arts organization in Virginia.
- 2002** Theatre IV presents *Buffalo Soldier* as the first professional theatre production to be staged in the Pentagon, as a morale booster following 9/11.
- 2009** Barksdale and Theatre IV jointly stage Virginia's first Hispanic Theatre Festival.
- 2020** Virginia Rep Board creates IDEA Committee: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access.
- 2021** Katrinah Carol Lewis named Interim Co-Artistic Director, followed by the permanent appointment of Desirée Roots as Artistic Director of Community.

The rest of Virginia Rep's Social Justice efforts, including our Anti-Racism Statement, can be found on our website at [va-rep.org/anti-racism.html](http://va-rep.org/anti-racism.html).

## 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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