

25TH
ANNIVERSARY

METROPOLIS



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

CINDERELLA

September 26 to
October 20, 2024



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BEST LIVE THEATRE

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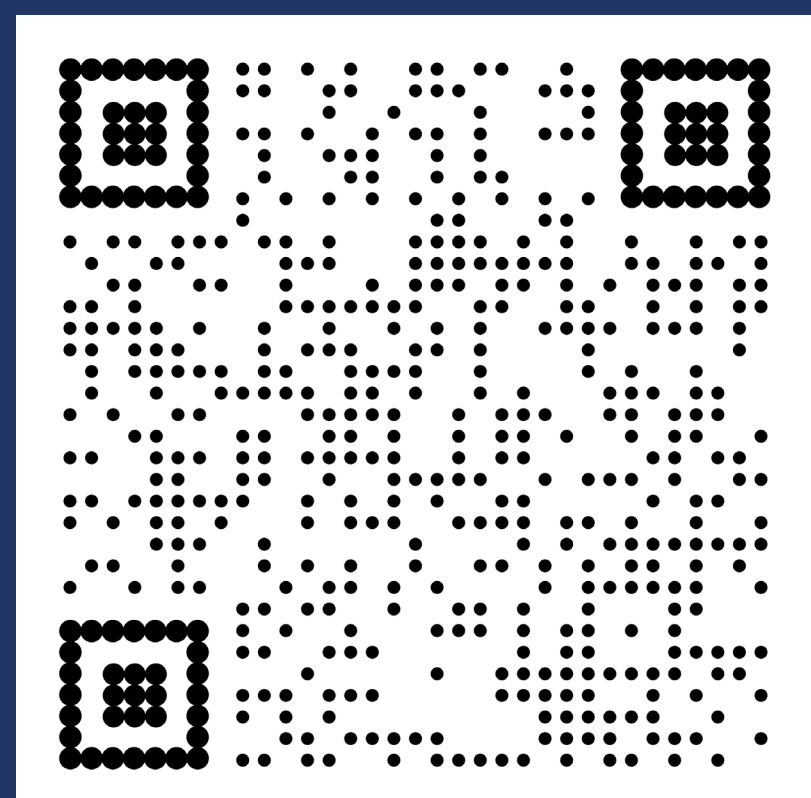
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Metropolis acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council

To view a full program, including cast and crew bios, head to the show page on our website, or scan the QR code.



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INTERIM ARTISTIC SUPERVISOR **TIFFANY GATES**,
AND **METROPOLIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE** PRESENT

Rodgers & Hammerstein's
CINDERELLA

Music by **Richard Rodgers**

Lyrics by **Oscar Hammerstein II**

New Book by **Douglas Carter Beane**

Original Book by **Oscar Hammerstein II**

Orchestrations by **Danny Troob**

Music Adaptation & Arrangements by **David Chase**

CREATIVE TEAM

Director

JOHANNA MCKENZIE MILLER

Choreographer/Assoc. Director

MANDY MODIC

Intimacy/Violence Director

SAMANTHA KAUFMAN

Casting Director

ROBIN HUGHES

Rehearsal Asst. Stage Mgr.

ZOE SCHMIDT

Lighting Designer

ALEXA WILJANEN

Costume/Hair & Makeup Designer

TAYLOR PFENNING

Puppets/Special Effects Designer

PATRICK MCGUIRE

Music Director

AARON KAPLAN

Asst. Music Director

KEVIN ZHOU

Stage Manager

KYLE ASCHBRENNER

Asst. Stage Manager

ALEXANDRA RAFFINI

Scenic Designer

LAUREN M. NICHOLS

Sound Designer

ABBEY NETTLETON

Props Designer

BARBIE BROWN

Additional Puppet Design

TONY CHURCHILL

PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Director ... **VICTOR GUTIERREZ**

Spotlight Operator **ADAM MILNE**

Sound Engineer **SEAN SLABER**

Scenic Charge **SAM STEPHEN**

Scenic Carpenter **TREVOR TURNER**

Production Manager **BILL FRANZ**

Spotlight Operator **ANDREW XU**

Production Assistant ... **MIGUEL RAMOS**

Scenic Carpenter ... **ELIZABETH BRACHMAN**

Scenic Carpenter **COLIN LONERGAN**



ERIC AMUNDSON
Swing, u/s Topher



ANDREW JOHN BAKER
Ensemble, u/s Pinkleton



MOLLY BREMER
Ella



RACHEL CARRERAS
Marie



HENRY CARTAYA
Ensemble



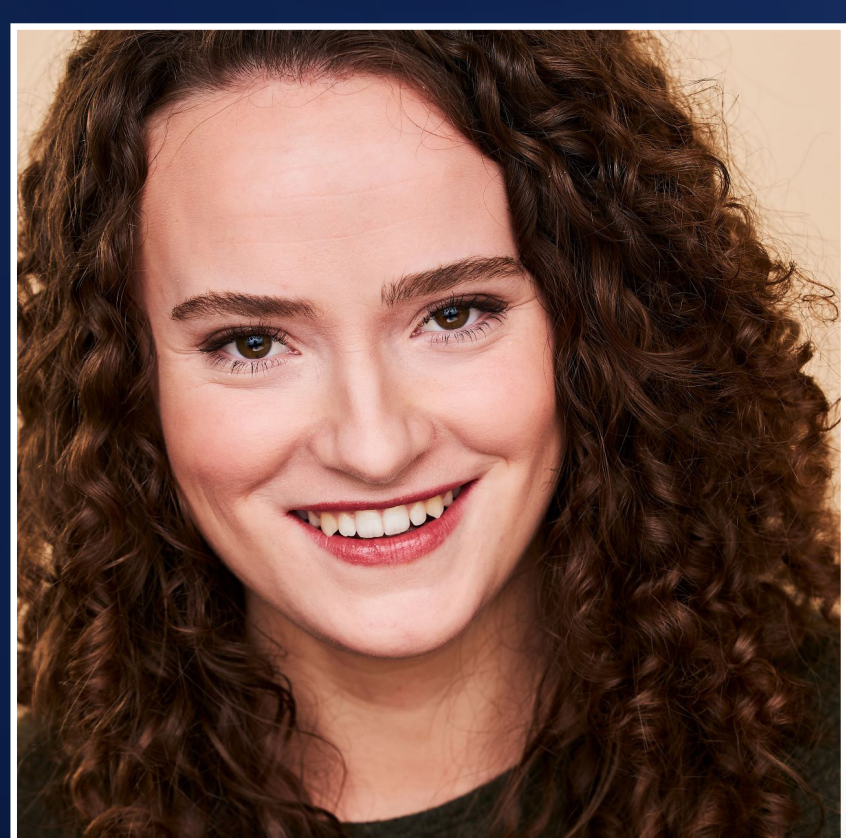
JENNY COUCH
Swing, u/s Ella



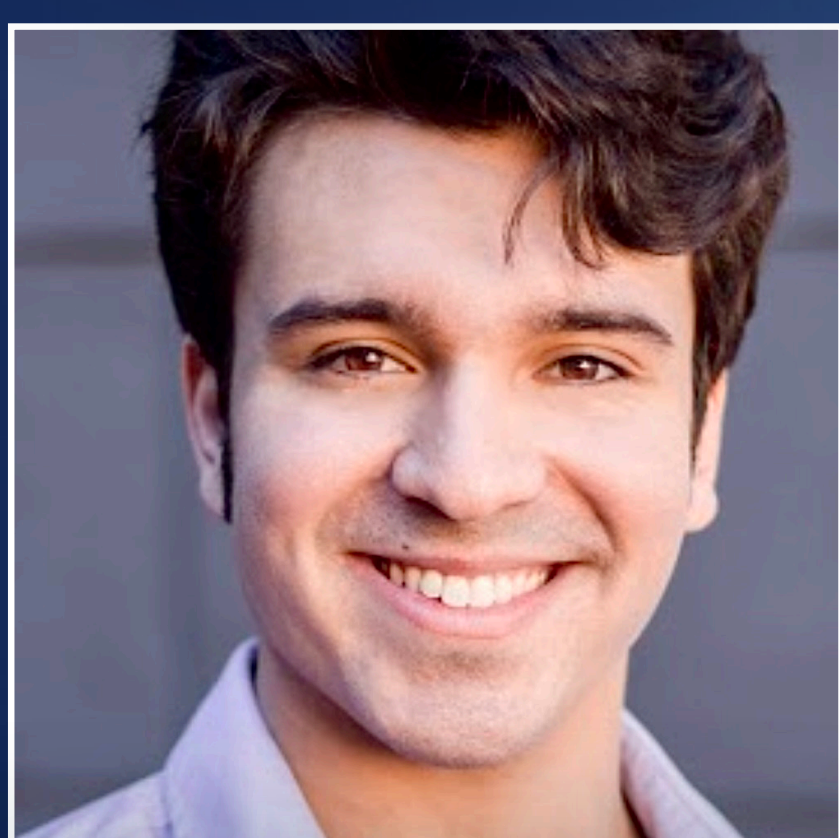
RACHAEL DEC
Ensemble, u/s Charlotte



MARIANNE EMBREE
u/s Marie, u/s Madame



MAURA FAWLEY
Gabrielle



PETER BRICEÑO GERTAS
Sebastian



BECK HOKANSON
Swing



DANIEL HURST
Ensemble, u/s Sebastian



CIARA JARVIS
Ensemble, u/s Ella



PATRICK JOHNSON
Prince Topher



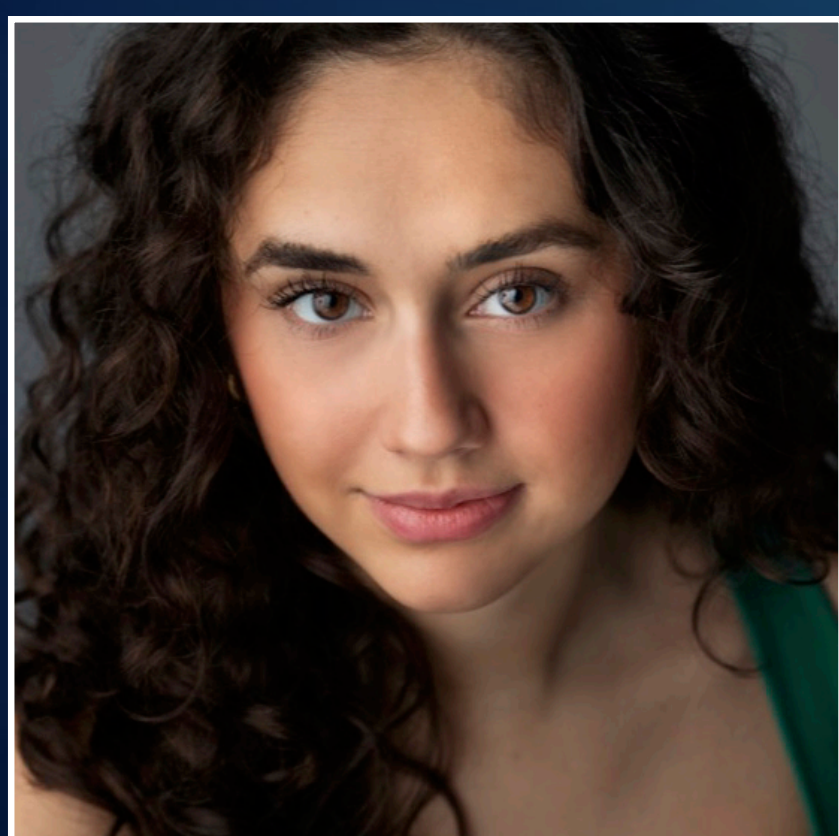
ABBEY LORIA
Charlotte



Z MOWRY
Ensemble, u/s Jean-Michel



LUKE NOWAKOWSKI
Jean-Michel, u/s Topher



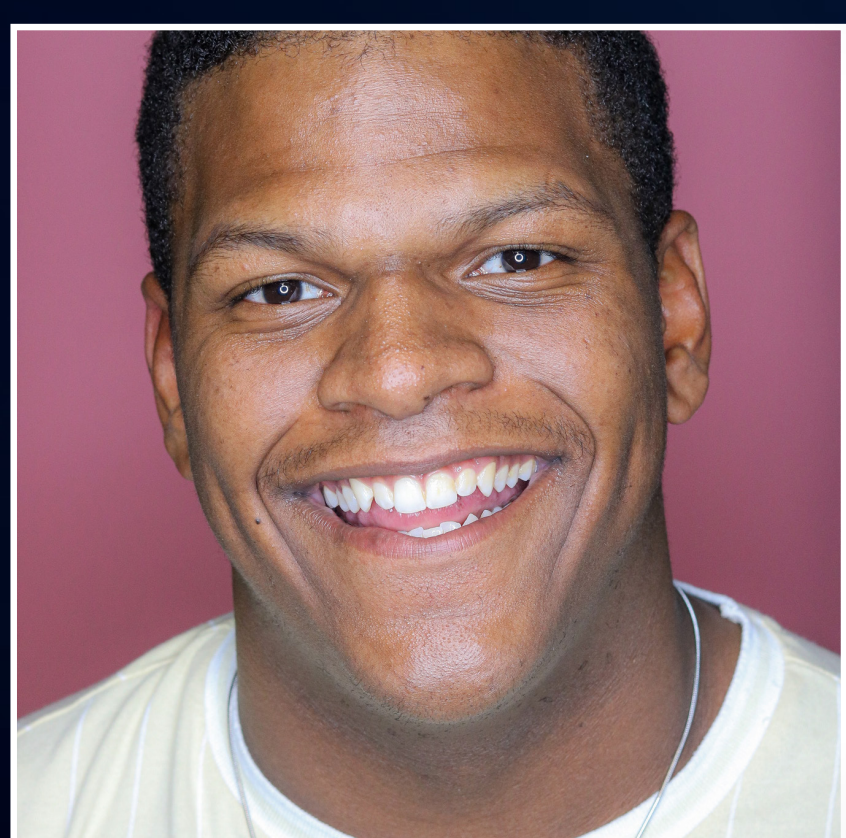
CHELSEA PEÑA
Ensemble, u/s Gabrielle



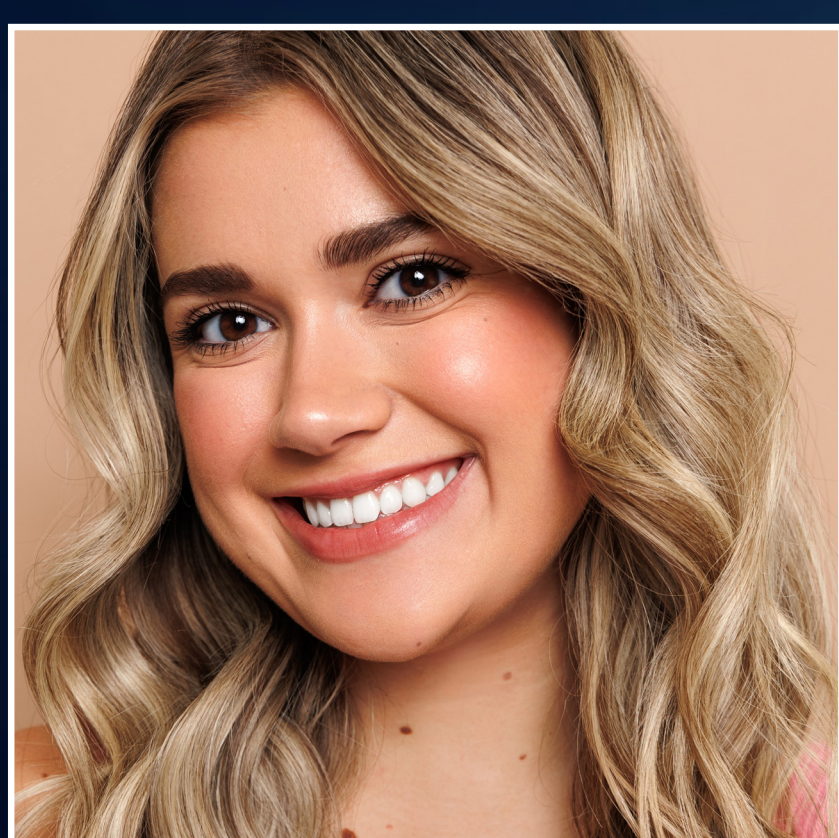
MORGAN SCHOENECKER
Swing



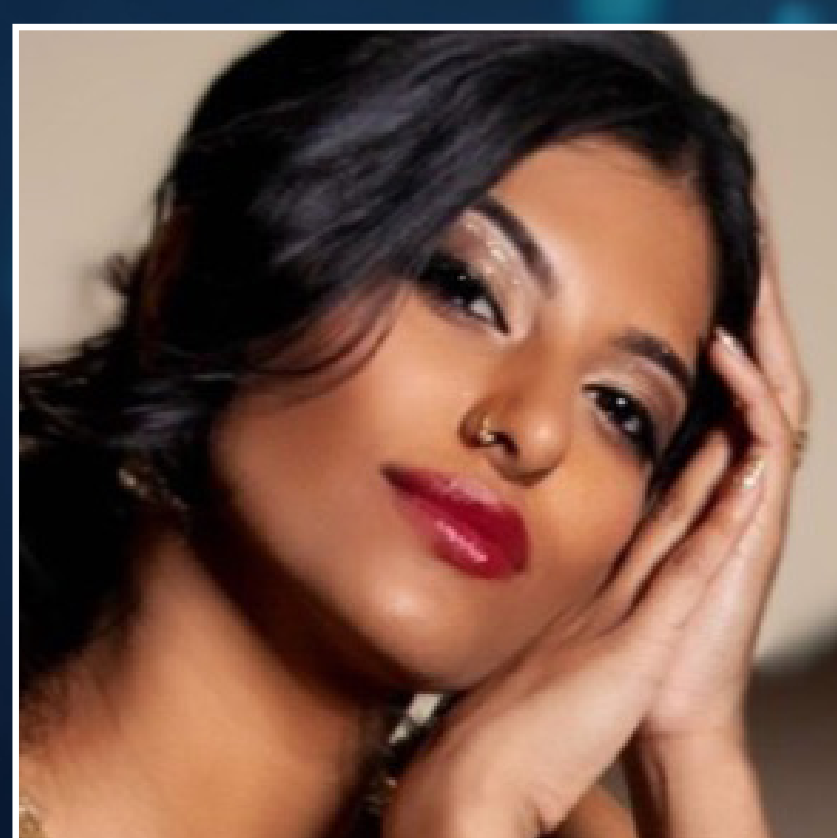
MITZI SMITH
Madame



RICHAUN STEWART
Ensemble



KYLIE TOLLEFSON
Ensemble



RAJI VENKAT
Ensemble



KOREY WHITE
Lord Pinkleton

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Overture	Orchestra
Prologue	Ella, Company
Me, Who Am I?	Topher, Sebastian, Lord Pinkleton, Knights and Pages
In My Own Little Corner	Ella
Now is the Time	Jean-Michel
The Prince is Giving a Ball	Lord Pinkleton, Company
In My Own Little Corner (reprise) / Fol-De-Rol	Ella, Marie
Impossible/It's Possible	Marie, Ella
Gavotte	Company
Ten Minutes Ago	Topher, Ella
Waltz for a Ball	Orchestra
Ten Minutes Ago (reprise)	Ella, Topher, Company

Act II

Entr'acte	Orchestra
Stepsister's Lament	Charlotte, Ladies of the Court
The Pursuit	Topher, Lord Pinkleton, Company
When You're Driving Through the Moonlight	Ella, Madame, Charlotte, Gabrielle
A Lovely Night	Ella, Madame, Charlotte, Gabrielle
A Lovely Night (reprise)	Ella, Gabrielle
Loneliness of Evening	Topher, Ella
There's Music in You	Marie
Now is the Time (reprise)	Jean-Michel, Gabrielle
Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?	Topher, Ella
The Wedding/Finale	Marie, Company

Additional Lyrics By

Douglas Carter Beane, David Chase, and Bruce Pomahac

ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Conductor	Aaron Kaplan
Assistant Conductor/Keyboard	Kevin Zhou
Flute/Alto Flute/Piccolo	Carlyn Lloyd
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet	Kaitlin Pucci
French Horn	Erika Hollenback
Trumpet	Michael Leavens
Trombone	Rob Hackl-Blumstein
Drums/Percussion	Craig Buckner
Violin 1	Renee Henley
Violin 2	Crystal Qi
Viola	Ryan Capparella/Tony Krempa
Cello	Rhea Davis
Bass	Eric von Holst
Keyboard Programming	Kevin Zhou

Original Orchestrations by Robert Russell Bennett

New Orchestrations by Danny Troob

METROPOLIS STAFF

Executive Director	David Victor	Director of Development ..	Randal Klaproth
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Education Prod. Coord.	Zoe Schmidt	Development Assoc.	Mary Seitz-Pagano
Development Associate	Kate Morris		
Box Office Associates & House Managers	Sophia Braun, Patt Carmody, Debbie Cortesi, Tina Kalomiris, Kate Morris, Maggie McAlpine, Mary Kate McAlpine, Mary Rodighiero, Catherine Schulewitz, Sara Schuring, Matthew Sheble, Monica Stark, Natalie Stahl, Kate Svoboda		

– CAST –



ERIC AMUNDSON (he/him)

Swing

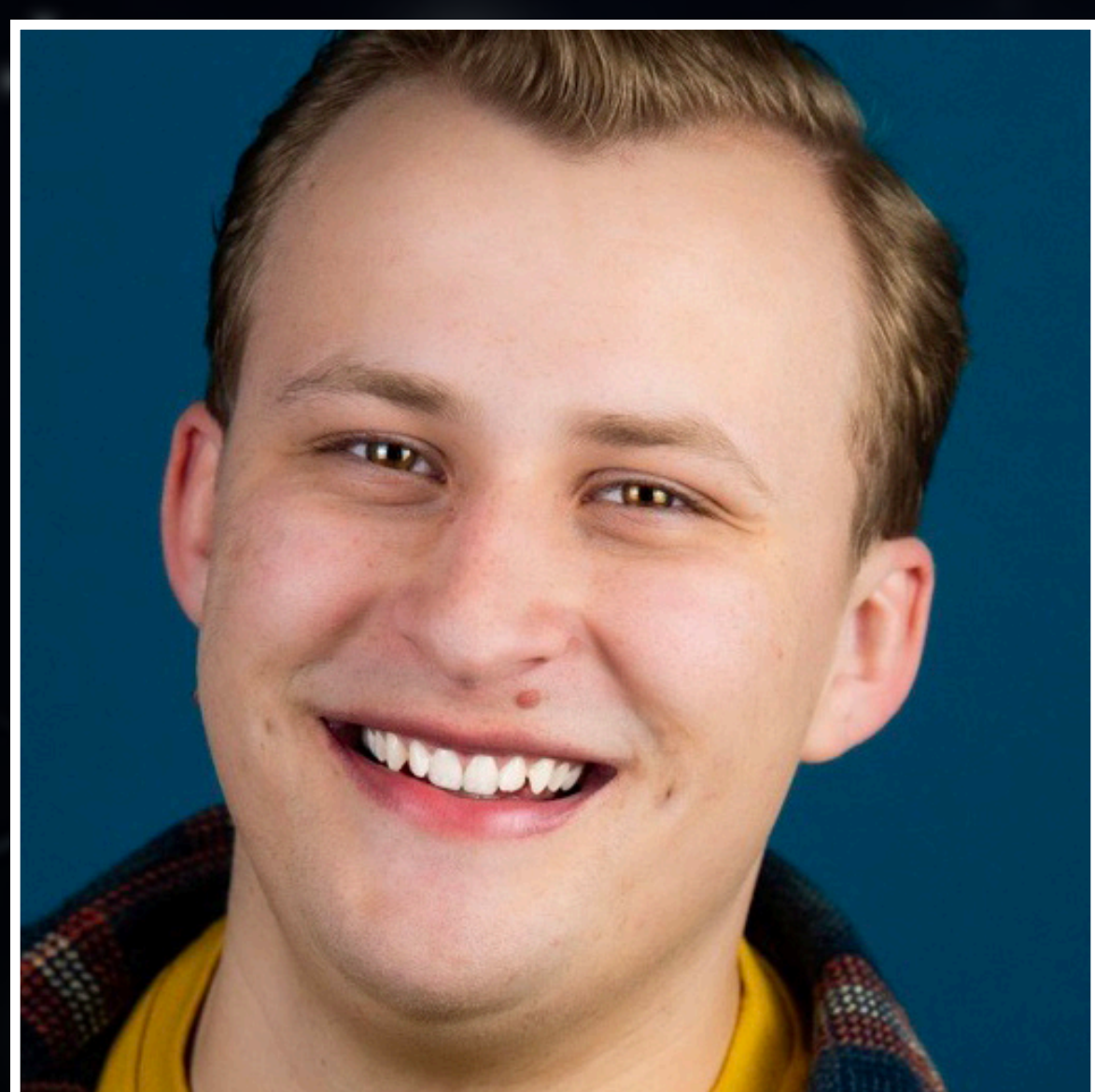
u/s Prince Topher

Eric is an actor, musician, and theatre technician in the Chicago area, and thrilled to be making his Metropolis debut! Recent performance credits include *Big River: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Huck Finn) at Mercury Theatre Chicago; *Bright Star* (Jimmy Ray), *She Loves Me* (Steven Kodaly) and *Wonderful Town* (Wreck) at CCPA. Eric also writes original music under the artist name FREDERiiiCK, which you can find on your favorite music streaming platform. Extra love to Jenny and his family!

ericamundson.com



[@amundson.eric](https://www.instagram.com/amundson.eric)



ANDREW JOHN BAKER (he/him)

Ensemble

u/s Lord Pinkleton

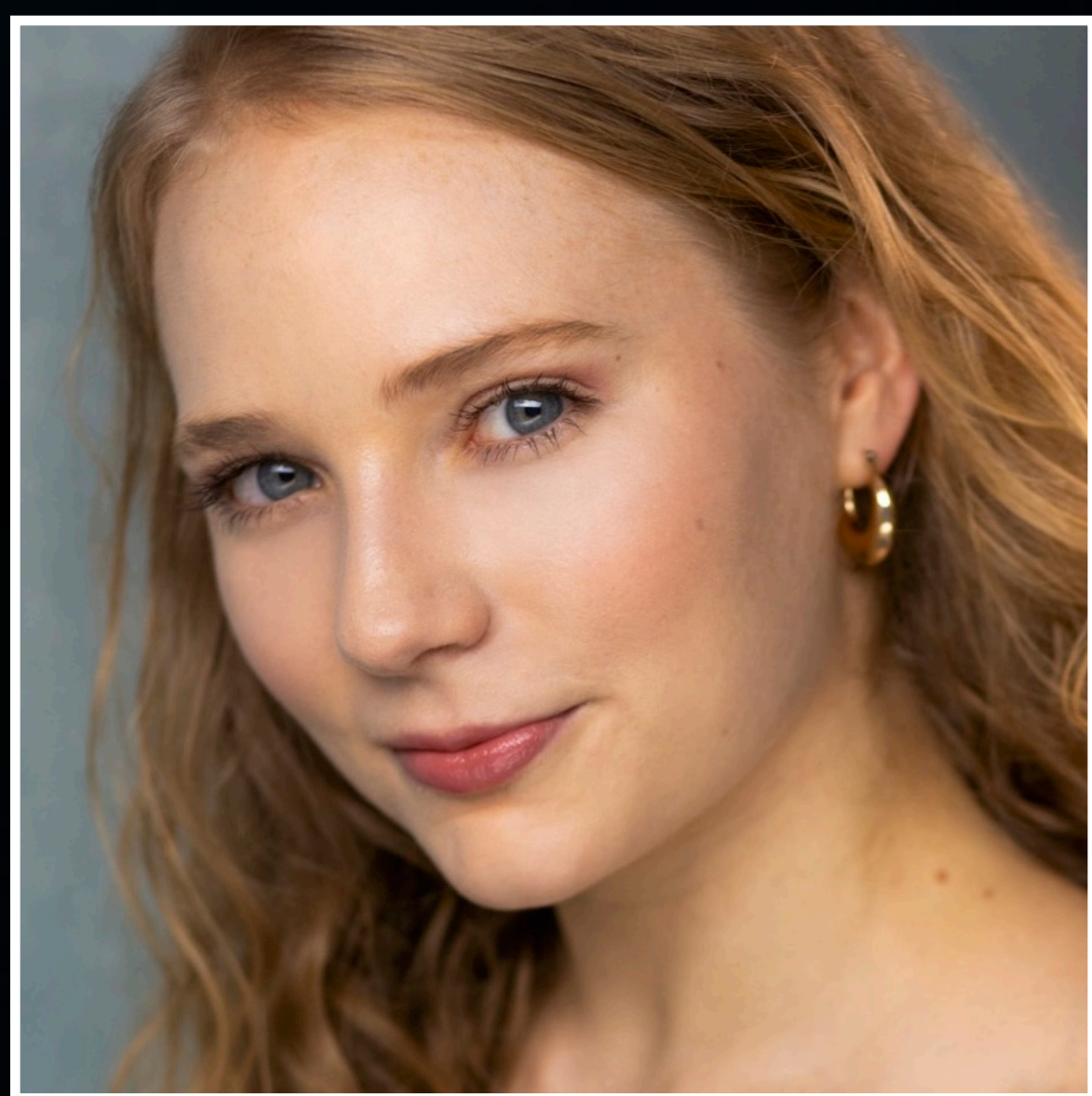
Andrew is thrilled to be making his Metropolis debut. He is a freelance theatre artist who began working in Chicago at the beginning of 2022. Andrew works as an actor, singer, technician, and designer (Scenic, Projection, & Lighting). Chicago acting credits include Ensemble in *Carousel*, *Shrek*, *White Christmas*, and *The Producers* (Music Theatre Works), Ensemble / Bobby Understudy in *Urinetown* (Surging Films & Theatrics), and Sheriff Joe in *The Spitfire Grill* (Jedlicka PAC). As a designer, Andrew recently served as the Associate Lighting Designer for Drury Lane's production of *Grease*. Andrew also often works as a guest designer with his alma mater, Taylor University; Scenic Design - *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Scenic Projections for *Shakespeare's Macbeth* and an adaptation of *The Little Prince*.

andrewjohnbaker.com



[@ajbakes1](https://www.instagram.com/ajbakes1)





MOLLY BREMER (she/her)

Ella

Molly is thrilled to attend the ball and make her Metropolis debut! Select regional credits: *Belle - Beauty and the Beast*, *Eliza Doolittle - My Fair Lady* (Cortland Repertory Theatre), *A Christmas Carol: The*

Musical Ghost Story (NCCA Jean's Playhouse), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Cabaret* (Hangar Theatre). Other: *Broadway by the Season* (Merkin Hall NYC), *Broadway's Next Generation* (54 Below), *Impossible but True*, *The Joe Hill Revival* (Brooklyn Tavern Theatre). BA, Princeton University, and a proud alum of The Chicago Academy for the Arts. Love and thanks to her queen Jenny and king Mark (Mom & Dad), noble kin Max & Joe, and her real-life prince, Jay; and to Andy, Allyson, Lara, and all those who've helped make impossible possible!

mollybremer.com



[@molly_bremer](https://www.instagram.com/molly_bremer)



RACHEL CARRERAS (she/her)

Marie

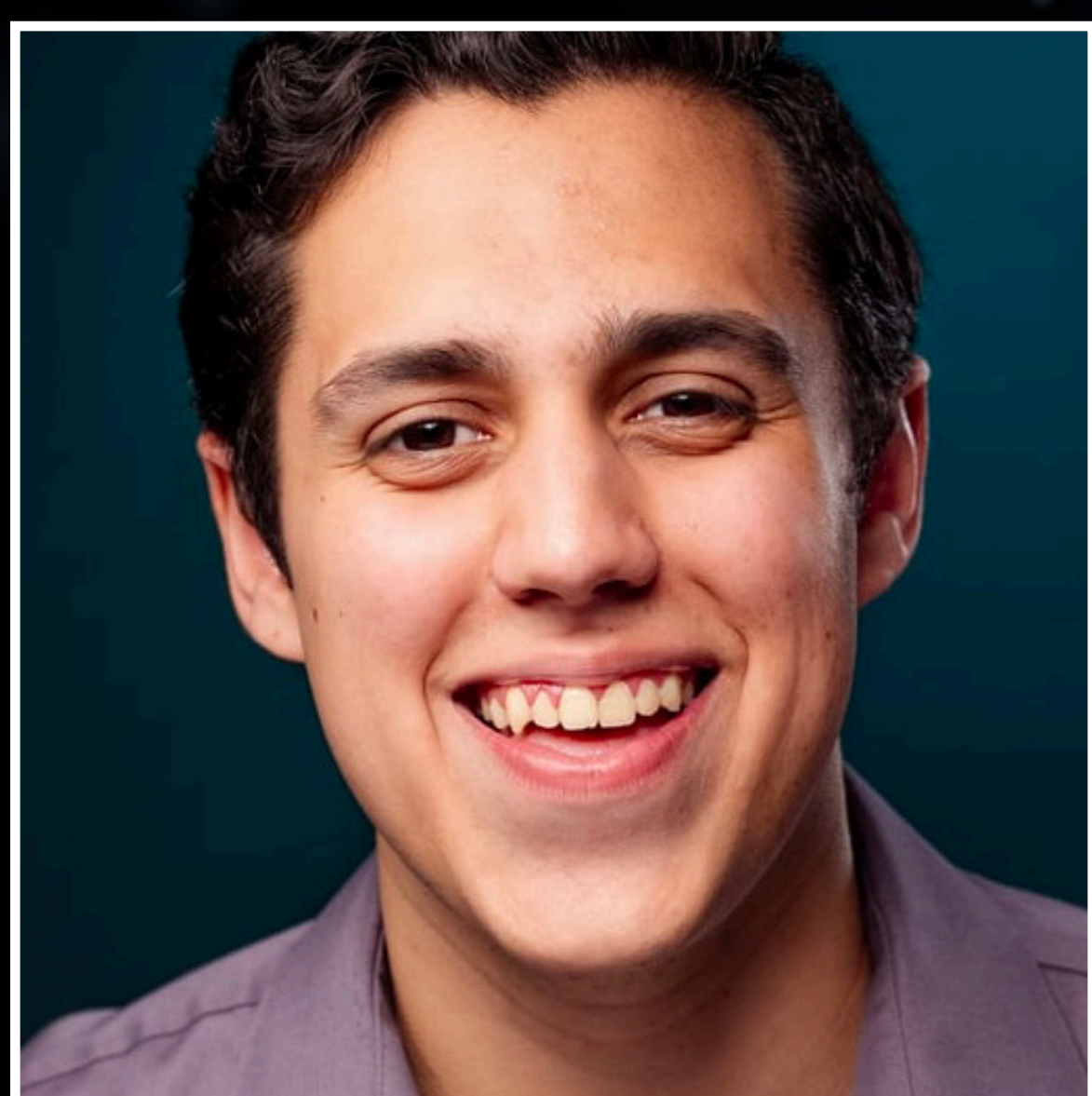
Rachel is elated to be back at Metropolis after making her debut earlier this year in *The Music Man*. Recent credits include: *Honky Tonk Angels* (Little Theatre on the Square), *Brighter Futures* (Paramount), *I*

Do! I Do! (Cornwell's Dinner Theatre), and *Into The Woods* (Summer Lyric Theatre). Rachel also sings in the professional Macomb/Chicago choir *withonevoice*! She would like to thank her family and friends for their unending love and support! Lastly, thank YOU for attending the ball with us - It's Possible! Philippians 4:13.

rachelcarreras.com



[@rachel.carreras](https://www.instagram.com/rachel.carreras)



HENRY CARTAYA (he/him)

Ensemble

Henry is incredibly happy to be participating in his first production at Metropolis and the company of *Cinderella*! Having recently graduated with a BFA in Music Theatre from Illinois Wesleyan

University, he is very grateful to be able to present his authentic self and to be apart of such a welcoming cast. Special thanks to Mom, Dad, Harry, and Delainey!

henrycartaya.com



[@cartaya2](https://www.instagram.com/cartaya2)





JENNY COUCH (she/her)

Swing
u/s Ella

Jenny is so happy to return to the Metropolis stage! Recent credits include Faith Pureheart in the premier of *Texas Hold Me* (Steamline Theatre), Christine in *American Psycho** (Kokandy - extension), *The Addams Family* (Metropolis PAC), *Pippin* and *The Producers* (Music Theater Works), *Elf* (Drury Lane Theatre), Ilona in *She Loves Me* (CCPA), and Roxie Hart in *Chicago*. Love to Mom, Dad, and Eric.

jennycouch.com



[@jenny_couch](https://www.instagram.com/jenny_couch)



RACHAEL DEC (she/her)

Ensemble
u/s Charlotte
dance captain

Rachael is enchanted to make her Metropolis PAC debut! She is a young professional who performed this year with Porchlight Music Theatre: as 'Charity' in *Anything Goes* and as a soloist in *Broadway In Your Backyard*. Rachael is a proud Northwestern graduate ('23 music theatre), where her previous credits include *Lyle The Crocodile*, *As You Like It* (by Shaina Taub) and *The 91st Annual Waa-Mu Show*, among numerous student performance and choreography opportunities. Rachael is currently seeking representation. "To my family and friends- All my love, always."

rachaeldec.com



[@rachaeldec](https://www.instagram.com/rachaeldec)



MARIANNE EMBREE (she/her)

u/s Marie
u/s Madame

Marianne is making her debut with Metropolis - and it's in her hometown! Her local performances include, *Deathtrap* (Myra), *Gypsy* (Tessitura), *Seussical* (Sour Kangaroo), *Annie* (Miss Hannigan), *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake), *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn), *Footloose*, (Vi), *Into the Woods* (Witch) and *Brigadoon* (Meg). Most of Marianne's professional experience is in musical theater. She traveled the nation performing in shows such as *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah), *The Secret Garden* (Rose), *City of Angels* (Alaura) and *Will Rogers Follies* (Betty Blake).



MAURA FAWLEY (she/her)

Gabrielle

Maura was recently seen on the Metropolis stage in *9 to 5: The Musical* and *A Christmas Carol* (2022, 2023). Other credits include *This One Will Grow*, *When All Of This Is Over* (Glass Apple Theatre), *Peppa Pig Live!* (Nat. Tour), *Chicago*, and *Sound of Music*. Maura is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Congratulations to the whole Cinderella team!



PETER BRECEÑO GERTAS (he/him)

Sebastian

Peter is a graduate from Roosevelt University with a BFA in acting and has worked in the Chicago theatre scene ever since. Notable credits include *Native Gardens* (Williams Street Rep), *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre), *Out Of Love* (Interrobang Theatre Co), *Emma* (Lifeline Theatre), *In to America* (Griffin Theatre), *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Citadel Theatre) and *Mi Latindad* (The Den Theatre). Peter is excited to be a part of this production and hopes everyone in the audience has a wonderful time!



BECK HOKANSON (he/him)

Swing

Beck is so excited to be performing with Metropolis for the first time! He is a recent graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts (BFA Musical Theatre '24) and the Second City conservatory. Theatre: *Carousel* (Music Theatre Works), *American Psycho* (Kokandy Productions/Jeff Award Best Musical); *Mamma Mia!* (BrightSide Theatre); *My Way or the My Way* (The Second City); *The Who's Tommy* (El Camino CFA); *Bat Boy*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *42nd Street* (CCPA). Film: *Sapphire Kingshit* (post-prod.), *Pacific Smoking Club* (Bass Demon Productions), *Butterflies* (Chapman University)





DANIEL HURST (he/him)

Ensemble

u/s Sebastian

Daniel was born and raised in California's Bay Area and has been based in Chicago since 2016. Theatre highlights: *A Chorus Line* (Metropolis), *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Chicago* (Drury Lane); *La Cage aux Folles* (Music Theater Works); *The Little Mermaid*, *My Fair Lady* (Theatre by the Sea); *A Chorus Line* (Woodminster Summer Musicals); *Sweet Charity* (Center REP).

@daniel.g.hurst



CIARA JARVIS (she/her)

Ensemble

u/s Ella

Ciara is elated to waltz her way back to Metropolis for their production of *Cinderella*! Her most recent credits include *The Addams Family* (Metropolis), 'Poopsie' in *The Pajama Game* (CCPA), 'JT/Host' in *Team Charlie Brown* (Valleyfair) and *Swelltones* (Cedar Point). She has her BFA in Musical Theater Dance from Roosevelt University. Ciara would love to thank her family, friends, and roommates for their endless love and support.

@ciarajrvs



PATRICK JOHNSON (he/him)

Prince Topher

Patrick is a current Senior at Chicago College of Performing Arts receiving his BFA in Musical Theatre Dance. Previously this year Patrick made his Metropolis debut in the quartet in the *Music Man*. Following *Cinderella*, Patrick will be starring as Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid* at The Drury Lane.

@patrickj.johnson





ABBEY LORIA (she/her)

Charlotte

Abbey is thrilled to be making her Metropolis debut. Recent credits include: *She Loves Me* (Citadel Theatre), *New Faces Sing Broadway 1951* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *On the 20th Century* (Blank Theatre)

and *Children of Eden* (Broadway in Chicago). She has her BFA in Musical Theatre and a Minor in Peace Studies from UWSP. Endlessly grateful for those who support and love her (especially mom and dad).

abbeyloria.com



[@abbey.loria](https://www.instagram.com/abbey.loria)



Z MOWRY (they/them)

Ensemble

u/s Jean-Michel

Z is grateful to be returning to Metropolis for this production of *Cinderella*! Their most recent credits include *Shrek* at Music Theatre Works, U/S Jonathan in *Tick, Tick...*

BOOM!, at Boho Theatre, and *Cabaret* at Metropolis.

When not performing, you can find Z cooking, reading, or hosting dinner parties. Hire trans talent!

lizziemowry.com



[@zzmowry](https://www.instagram.com/zzmowry)



LUKE NOWAKOWSKI (any)

Jean-Michel

u/s Prince Topher

Chicago Credits - *Lord of the Rings*, *A Musical Tale* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Sound Of Music*, *Fun Home* (Paramount

Theater); Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (Porchlight Music Theater), *Children of Eden* (Cadillac Palace). Other credits - Carnegie Hall, Ravinia Festival, Goodman Theater.

Education - BA in Music Performance, Elmhurst University.

Awards - Finalist in National Musical Theater Competition in NYC.

[@_lukenowakowski_](https://www.instagram.com/_lukenowakowski)





CHELSEA PEÑA (she/her)

Ensemble

u/s Gabrielle

Chelsea Peña is born and raised in Chicago, IL. Recent graduate from Belmont University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Recent Show Credits: Irene Molloy - *Hello, Dolly!*,

Cinderella - Into The Woods (Belmont University) Cardoza - *Titanic*, Ensemble - *9 to 5: The Musical* (Maine State Music Theater). Love to her family, friends, and God.

chelseapena.com 

[@chelsea.pena](https://www.instagram.com/chelsea.pena) 



MORGAN SCHOENECKER (she/her)

Swing

Morgan is so happy to be returning to MPAC! Originally from Minneapolis she is now based in Chicago where she graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a BFA in Musical Theater! Past credits include:

Xanadu (MPAC), *On the 20th Century* (Blank Theater), *Adrenaline* (Six Flags Great America), *The Home Game* (Blue Gate Musicals), *Dragons Love Tacos* (Big Noise Theater) and *The Tortoise and The Hare* (Chicago Kids Company).

morganschoenecker.com 

[@morgan.schoen](https://www.instagram.com/morgan.schoen) 



MITZI SMITH

Madame

Mitzi is overjoyed to make her MPAC debut in *Cinderella*. She recently appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Drury Lane. Formerly a Broadway casting director, with Jay Binder, Mitzi worked alongside

Arthur Laurents, Baayork Lee & Kathleen Marshall casting *Gypsy*, *A Chorus Line* and *Grease*. Performance credits include California theatres Moonlight Amphitheatre, Diversionary Theatre and Cygnet Theatre. Mitzi heads the Musical Theatre program at North Central College. BFA, Boston Conservatory, MFA, San Diego State. Thank you to Johanna, Mandy, Aaron and the team at Metropolis for this dazzling opportunity. Dedicated to my parents, husband & daughters, I love you! Represented by Talent X Alexander.

mitzismithmfa.com 

[@mitzismithmfa](https://www.instagram.com/mitzismithmfa) 



RICHAUN STEWART (he/him)

Ensemble

Richaun Stewart is an Ohio-born, Indiana-raised, and Chicago-bound photographer, choreographer, and performer. His previous credits include performing at Broadway Rose, Young People's Theatre of Chicago, The Franklin Theatre, Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theatre, Gaylord National, Cedar Point, and Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre. He is excited to debut at the Wick and gives all glory to God.

richaunstewart.com 

[@chaun_shamar_stewart](https://www.instagram.com/chaun_shamar_stewart) 



KYLIE TOLLEFSON (she/her)

Ensemble

Kylie is very thrilled to make her Chicago theatre debut in *Cinderella* here at Metropolis Performing Arts! She is currently a senior at CCPA getting a BFA in Musical Theatre with a Dance Emphasis. Credits include Sandy in *Grease* (Timber Lake Playhouse), Lorraine in *Jersey Boys* (Timber Lake Playhouse), Dance Captain and ensemble in *Spring Awakening* (CCPA), and she was a swing for the world premiere of a new musical, *Dreamsters* (CCPA). Lots of love to all my family, friends and teachers!

[@kylietetollefson](https://www.instagram.com/kylietetollefson) 



RAJI VENKAT

Ensemble

Raji, Indian-American Soprano from the greater Atlanta area, has recently performed Papagena, from *The Magic Flute* at Hawaii performing arts festival, Sophie in the renowned opera *Werther* at William Jewell College, and the main role of Addie in *The House without a Christmas Tree*. Ms. Venkat received a M.M. in vocal performance from New England Conservatory, where she studied under Carole Haber. Her stage performance includes opera, music theatre, concert works, Indian classical dance, and Carnatic music.

rajivenkat.com 



KOREY WHITE (he/him)

Lord Pinkleton

Korey is excited to be returning to Metropolis! He was last seen in *Les Miserables* with Uptown Theatre.

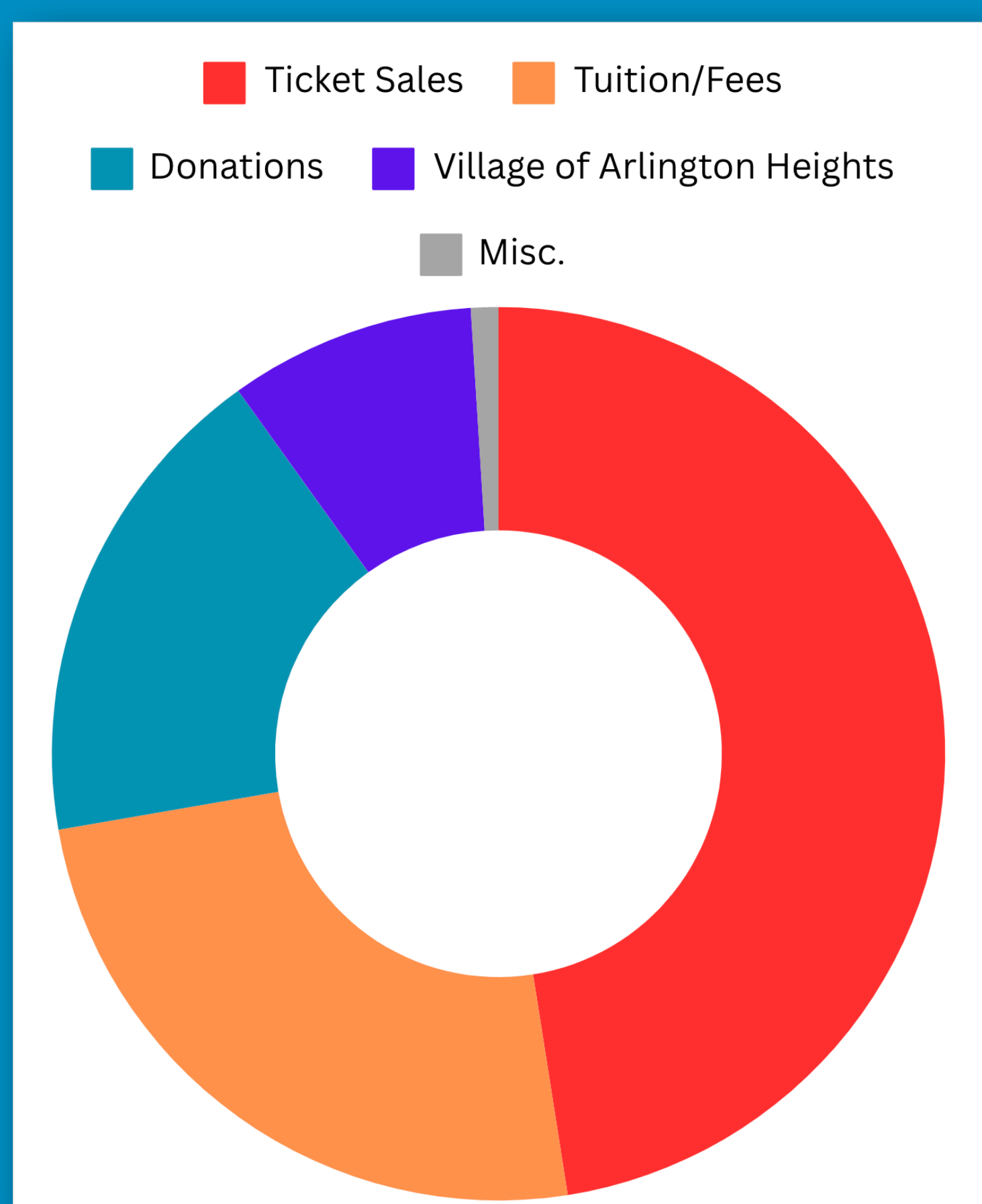
Other credits include *Ragtime* (Metropolis); *Ragtime, The Little Mermaid* (Music Theatre Works);

She Loves Me (Blank Theater Company); *Parade, The Full Monty* (Theatre Nebula); *Planted* (Rogue Elephant Productions); *If Scrooge Was A Brother* (eta Creative Arts); *Legally Blonde* (Fremont Street Theatre Company); *Ragtime* (St. James Theatre); *Company, Jesus Christ Superstar* (Devonshire Playhouse), *Man Of LaMancha* (Company of Pittsburgh); *Rent*, and *Tarzan* (Pittsburgh Musical Theatre). Korey thanks his family, friends, the amazing and supportive cast and crew of *Cinderella*, and his emotional support Boris.

@tempest282



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– CREATIVE TEAM –

JOHANNA M^CKENZIE MILLER (she/her)

Director

Johanna is making her Metropolis debut! Recent directing credits include co-directing *Beautiful* (Paramount Theatre) with Jim Corti; *Shrek* (Music Theatre Works); *Shrek: TYA*, *Steel Magnolias* {Jeff Award for Best Ensemble Play - Large}, and *39 Steps* (Drury Lane Theatre); *Kiss Me Kate*, *Wizard of Oz: TYA*, *Elephant and Piggie*, *We Are In A Play: TYA* (Marriott Theatre); *The 91st & 92nd Annual Waa-Mu Show* (NU). Upcoming Fall 2024 - *Frozen* (Fulton Theater).

KYLE ASCHBRENNER

Stage Manager

Kyle is a Director, Dramaturg & Stage Manager from Central IL and based in Chicago since 2019. Kyle is very excited to be returning to Metropolis this year for this magical production! Recent credits include: *In The Heights* (SM - The Miracle Center), *Cruise* (Director - Stage Left Theatre), *Open* (AD/Dramaturg - Stage Left Theatre), *Man of the People* (AD/SM - Stage Left Theatre), *A Town Called Progress* (AD/SM - Promethean Theatre Ensemble), *The Addams Family* (SM - Metropolis), *On the Twentieth Century* (SM - Blank Theatre). Kyle is currently an ensemble member of Stage Left Theatre in Chicago. Much love to all of my family and friends for their support.

@kyle.asch



SAMANTHA KAUFMAN (she/her)

Intimacy Director / Fight Director

Samantha (she/her) is an intimacy director, fight director, actor, and teaching artist. Samantha is a Certified Intimacy Director, teaching artist, and curriculum developer with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators. A Certified Teacher and Fight Director with the Society of American Fight Directors. A Jeff award nominated fight choreographer and award winning actor. A certified Michael Chekhov teacher with the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. She has been a resident artist with Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Prague Shakespeare Company. Regionally, Samantha has worked with theatres such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Cleveland Play House, among others. She has her MFA from Florida Atlantic University.

samanthajkaufman.com



AARON KAPLAN (he/they/any)

Music Director

Aaron enjoys a multifaceted musical career as a conductor, Jeff-nominated musical director, cellist, music educator, and arranger. He earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Donald Schleicher, as well as his bachelor's degree in cello performance and bachelor's degree in music education with high honors also from the University of Illinois. Aaron is the artistic director/conductor of the JAM Orchestra, a Chicago-based ensemble dedicated to performing a diverse repertoire of classical, Broadway, swing, and film music, and also conducts for the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras and the Music Institute of Chicago. A dedicated teacher, Aaron is an orchestra director at Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools. A passionate advocate of the American musical theatre, Aaron has been the music director/conductor for over 90 productions (the majority with complete orchestration) including *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Les Misérables*, *RENT*, *Chess*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The Producers*. His theatre work has been recognized with 2 non-equity Jeff nominations for Music Direction: *The Wild Party* (2022) and *Promises, Promises* (2023). Special thanks to David, Tiffany, Johanna, Mandy, Kyle, Alex, Kevin, the wonderful cast and the fantastic orchestra. Thank you for supporting live theater, live music, and the arts in the community!

aaronskaplan.com



[@askcello](https://www.instagram.com/askcello)



PATRICK M^cGUIRE (he/they/any)

Puppet / Special Effects Designer

Puppetry design and fabrication credits include: *The Addams Family*, *A Year With Frog And Toad*, *Shrek*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Nevermore...*, and *Gossamer*. As a performer: *Sofa Shakespeare: The Taming of the Shrew* (shadow puppetry) and *Sofa Shakespeare: Titus Andronicus* (marionettes). Patrick has done freelance work for companies including, *Florentine Opera*, *Milwaukee Chamber Theatre*, *Music Theater Works*, and *Gallaudet University*, as well as design/fabrication work in historical millinery, props, and costume crafts. MA (theatre directing), CCPA at *Roosevelt University*; MM, *Boston University*; BME, *Illinois State*.

patrickmcguirearts.com



[@say_something_thespionic](https://www.instagram.com/say_something_thespionic)



MANDY MODIC (she/her)

Assistant Director

Choreographer

Mandy is so excited to make her Metropolis debut! Some favorite choreographer credits include: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Something Rotten*, *42nd Street*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Matilda* (director/choreographer), *Sound of Music*, *State Fair*, *White Christmas*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Newsies*. Mandy is also passionate about educational theater and has helped build musical theater programs abroad in Shanghai, China and Lima, Peru. As a performer, she has toured and performed at various theaters around the country- most recently seen in *Guys and Dolls* at Drury Lane Theater. Up next: Mandy is choreographing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at the Engeman Theater in New York. Proud AEA member. Huge thanks to Johanna for this amazing collaboration, and a shoutout to her fiancé (the coincidentally named Jean-Michel!)

mandymodic.com



[@mandyinmotion](https://www.instagram.com/mandyinmotion)



ABBEY NETTLETON (they/she)

Sound Designer

Abbey is a Chicago based Sound Designer and Audio Engineer. Their previous sound design credits include *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Ragtime* (Metropolis); *In a Grove* (Northwestern Opera); *Figaro* (Hope Repertory Theatre), and *The Neverland* (Illinois Theatre). Other recent credits include audio engineering for *Pipe Dream* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Music Theatre Works); and *Orfeo* (Santa Fe Opera).

LAUREN M. NICHOLS

Scenic Designer

Lauren is a three time Jeff nominated freelance designer native to Chicago receiving a MFA from Northwestern. Credits include: *Hot Wing King*, *Tiger Style* (Writers) and *A Home What Howls* (Steppenwolf). She has also designed for Marriott, UIC, University of Chicago, Rivendell, Victory Gardens, Jackalope, Harper College, Young People's Theatre, Shattered Globe, Renaissance Theatreworks, First Floor, Big Noise, The Gift Theatre, Firebrand, Teatro Vista, BoHo, among several others. As an associate she has worked on dozens of productions all over the country including with Julliard, NY Theatre Workshop, The Alliance, Asolo Rep, Milwaukee Rep, Goodman, Lyric Opera, Oregon Shakes, and St Louis Opera. She currently teaches drafting and digital design as an adjunct professor at DePaul and Northwestern. She is the recipient of the 2024 Michael Maggio Award for Emerging Designers. Upcoming designs at Paramount and Steep.

laurenangeldesigns.com



[@laurenm.nichols](https://www.instagram.com/laurenm.nichols)



ALEXANDRA RAFFINI (she/her)

Asst. Stage Manager / Artistic Ops Manager

Alex is a Chicago suburb native with a diverse career in theater both on and offstage. With a B.A. in Theater Performance from the University of Missouri, she spent her earlier years exploring the theme park entertainment industry through the Walt Disney World Company and Six Flags group. Recently, she entered the Chicago theater scene at Metropolis and the rest is history! As the newly appointed Artistic Operations Manager, she is honored to provide this diverse community of actors, artists, and theatre-lovers with a superb experience when they walk through our doors. MPAC Credits: *Sister Act* (ASM), *Cabaret* (ASM), *A Christmas Carol* (ASM), *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (SM), *Ragtime* (SM), *Xanadu* (Crew Swing), *The Addams Family* (ASM), and *9 to 5: The Musical* (ASM).

@archaeopteralyx



ALEXA WILJANEN (she/they)

Lighting Designer

Alexa is a Chicago-based freelancer specializing in both lighting design and scenic painting. Alexa holds a BFA in Theatre: Design & Technical Production from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. Credits include: *The Wizard of Oz* (Timber Lake Playhouse), *Mean Girls - High School Version* (Metropolis School of the Performing Arts), *A Christmas Carol* (Drury Lane Theatre) & *Xanadu* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre).

alexawiljanen.com



@alexawiljanen



KEVIN ZHOU (he/him)

Associate Music Director

Kevin is a Chicago musician born in Canada. Huge thanks to Aaron Kaplan for involving Kevin in the show. Previous show credits: *The Addams Family*, *Music Man in Concert* (Metropolis); *Ragtime in Concert* (Highland Park Players); *Promises, Promises*, *On The Twentieth Century* (Blank Theatre Company); *Les Miserables* (Uptown Players). U of I Alum.

kevinzhou.com



@kevpo.zhou



– PRODUCTION TEAM –

ELIZABETH BRACHMAN (she/her)

Scenic Carpenter

Elizabeth is a Chicago-native artist and carpenter, and marks her ninth year in scenic production. Liz takes on a variety of roles backstage; she prides herself on being a freelance multimedia artist with an appreciation for design's role in storytelling. Her recent paint credits include: *In His Hands* (First Floor Theatre), *Manon Lescaut* (Opera Festival of Chicago), and *Seagulls* (Oak Park Festival Theatre). Other notable credits include: *Million Dollar Quartet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She can be contacted at reganbrachman@gmail.com for professional inquiries.

BILL FRANZ (he/him)

Production Director

Bill is thrilled to be working at Metropolis again and on our production of *Cinderella*. Having spent a few years away, it's nice to be welcomed back. Take that Thomas Wolfe!! Bill has been an audio engineer and a sound designer around Chicago and the suburbs for over twenty years. Past credits include, *RENT* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Elgin Community college and *Don't Dress for Dinner* and *Bleacher Bums* here at Metropolis. Bill would like to thank everyone here for being so welcoming and patient. He would also like to send love to BB and JB.

@wodin



VICTOR GUTIERREZ (he/him)

Technical Director

Victor originally hails from the Los Angeles area, and moved to Chicago last year after finishing an MFA at Carnegie Mellon University in Technical Direction. He is excited for his second season at Metropolis and is enjoying working with the incredible team here putting on amazing shows. Victor has also worked as a carpenter, electrician, scenic designer, and lighting designer. He would like to thank his husband for all the support. He enjoys playing TTRPGs in his free time, and does in fact put his technical and creative capabilities to work in his games.

SAM STEPHEN (they/them)

Scenic Charge

Sam has a B.A. degree in Live Entertainment Design and Technology from North Central College. They have previously painted Alice By Heart (Kokandy), Sweeney Todd (BAM Theater), and Gypsy and The Odd Couple (Brightside Theater). They also work as an award winning lighting designer having recently designed School of Rock, Beautiful: The Carol King Musical, All is Calm, and Once the Musical (Des Moines Playhouse), Clue and Woman in Black (Theater Cedar Rapids), The Addams Family, The Legend of Georgia McBride and Cabaret (Metropolis Performing Arts) and This One Will Grow, When All of This is Over and Dracula (Glass Apple Theater).

samstephendesign.com



[@sam.stephen.design](https://www.instagram.com/sam.stephen.design)



ANDREW XU (he/him)

Spot Operator

Andrew has been involved with theater tech ever since attending Fremd High School from 2010 to 2014. Since then he has been involved with Illini Student Musicals @ UIUC from 2014 to 2019 and Starlight Theatre in Rockford from 2019 to 2022. Andrew also worked part time at Medieval Times as a spot operator from 2013 to 2014. This is Andrew's 2nd show with Metropolis, the first one being *9 to 5: The Musical*.

— 25TH —
ANNIVERSARY

METROPOLIS



Brick in the Spotlight

THE BRICKS ARE BACK!

They have relocated to the theatre wall behind section 3, above the ramp. Thank you for your patience during the reinstallation process following theatre renovations.

By purchasing a nameplate for a brick in our theatre through this 100% tax-deductible gift, you will leave a lasting legacy here at Metropolis, not only through your brick in the spotlight but also in support of Metropolis' theatrical and arts education programs that enrich the community.

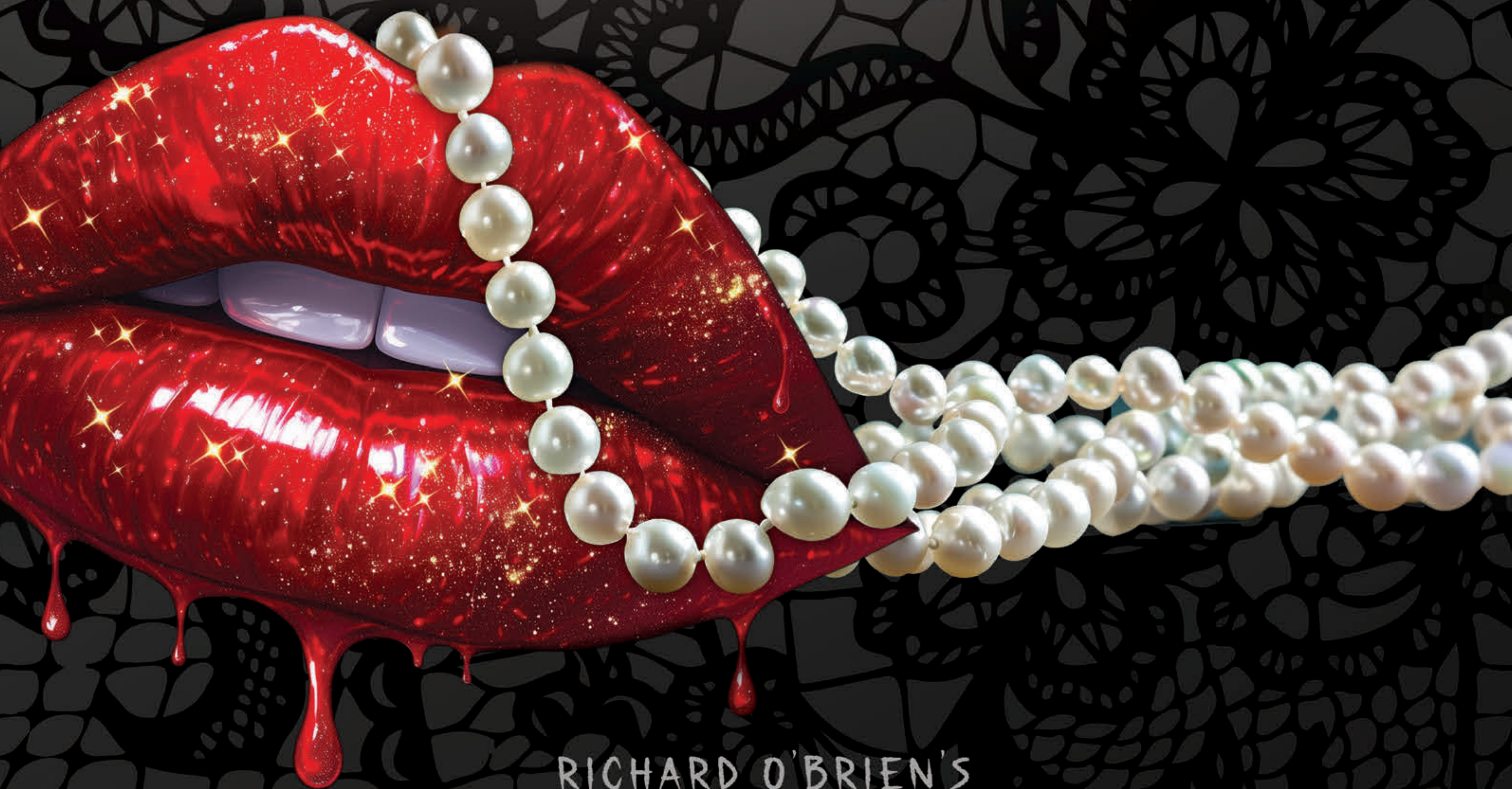
Each nameplate is fully customizable. This is a great opportunity to support your local nonprofit theater while honoring a loved one, donating in memory of someone special, or commemorating a memory, experience at Metropolis, or one of your favorite productions. Gold Level nameplates receive: 3 lines of text (up to 30 characters per line) Silver and Bronze Level nameplates receive 2 lines of text (up to 25 characters per line). Nameplates will be secured randomly within the specific level on the theatre ramp wall behind section 3.

GOLD \$500 • SILVER \$350 • BRONZE \$150

For more information
or to purchase a brick, please go to
MetropolisArts.com/brick, or scan:



frightful fun
@ metropolis



RICHARD O'BRIEN'S

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

- IN CONCERT -

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY RICHARD O'BRIEN

October 31, 2024 • 10:30pm • \$39/\$35

November 1, 2024 • 7:30pm • \$39/\$35

LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN!

For the first time on the Metropolis stage, we proudly present one of the most famous cult classics ever made – **LIVE AND IN CONCERT** – The Rocky Horror Show!

Whether it's your first or fiftieth time seeing this iconic show, our rock and roll concert version will definitely make you shiver with anticipation! You'll marvel at our frightfully fantastic cast as you do the Time Warp!

On October 31st, come dressed in costume for a chance to win prizes. Get interactive by adding an audience participation bag and double your fun. This is a limited engagement full of surprises you won't want to miss.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a shadowcast production or screening of the film. Actors and musicians will be onstage performing dialogue and songs live from the stage production.

Appropriate for ages 15+
Patrons under the age of 15 must be
accompanied by a guardian (aged 21+)

A  + 
PRODUCTION

Merry@ Metropolis

A NAT KING COLE CHRISTMAS *with* JOHN-MARK MCGAHA



December 9, 2024 • 7:30 pm • \$49/\$45
December 10, 2024 • 2:00 pm • \$49/\$45

Make the season bright with acclaimed musician and storyteller John-Mark McGaha as he celebrates Nat King Cole with a festive cocktail of signature songs and yuletide favorites.

Sponsored by the Bob White Memorial Concert Fund

ARTISTS LUNGE LIVE

The Second City

THE GOOD, THE BAD, and THE UGLY SWEATER



December 16 - December 31, 2024 • 7:30pm • \$40/\$50

Are you tired of the same-old holiday reruns? Then skip them and dash to The Second City presents The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Sweater. What better way to send off 2024 than to roast it like chestnuts on an open fire? Festive family gatherings, office parties, classic holiday movies... nothing is off limits!

Merry@ Metropolis



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS

November 24 – December 23, 2024 • \$45/\$20

Metropolis Performing Arts Centre's updated, record-breaking production returns with enough magic, joy and Christmas spirit to delight audiences of all ages.

Appropriate for ages 5+

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. [playscripts.com](https://www.playscripts.com)



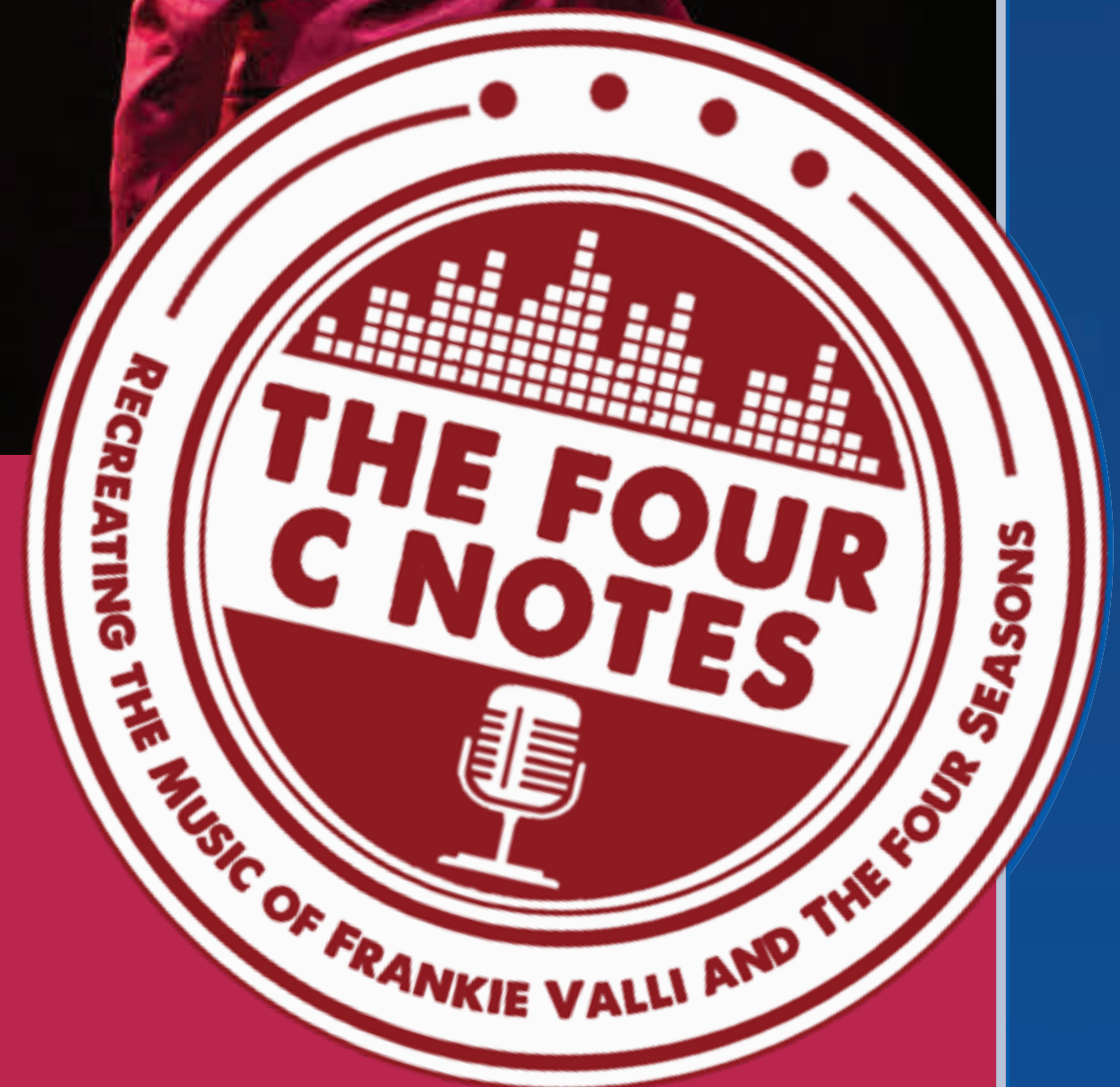
December 2, 2024 • 7:30 pm • \$40

December 3, 2024 • 3:00pm • \$40

The best of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons plus Rock and Roll Holiday Hits!

Featuring hits from the iconic "boys from Jersey," plus your favorite holiday chart toppers by artists such as Dion and the Belmonts, The Drifters, The Beach Boys, and more.

Sponsored by Lynn and Doug Steffen



metropolis presents...



QUEENZ THAT ROCK

November 2, 2024 • 7:30 pm • \$35

Prepare to be captivated, moved, and shaken to your core—Queenz That Rock guarantees you won't remain seated for long. Three

female rock powerhouses ignite the stage with a journey through rock's golden ages. From the raw, unbridled energy of Pat Benatar to the timeless hits of Jon Bon Jovi, Queenz That Rock infuses each performance with an unmistakable electric vitality. Pay homage to rock legends like Heart, Fleetwood Mac, Bonnie Tyler, Aerosmith, and the indomitable Janis Joplin!



CLOSE TO YOU: THE MUSIC OF THE CARPENTERS

January 18, 2025 • 7:30 pm • \$39/\$35

Considered one of the best vocalists of all time, Karen Carpenter captured the attention of a generation with her unabashedly catchy pop music. The Carpenters' beautiful love songs topped the Billboard charts with more than a dozen number-one hits. Now singer Lisa Rock and her 6-piece band are bringing the music of The Carpenters back to the stage with their spot-on renditions of Carpenters classics.

Sponsored by Lynn and Doug Steffen

L I S A
ROCK
ENTERTAINMENT



DON'T STOP ME NOW: A CELEBRATION OF ROCK MUSICALS

February 1, 2025 • 7:30 pm • \$45/\$40

Tonight I'm gonna have myself a real good time. I feel ali-i -i-iiiive celebrating the most popular and acclaimed rock musicals of all time! Don't Stop Me Now is a vibrant celebration of the music from beloved rock musicals such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Jersey Boys, Rock of Ages, Movin' Out, Hair, Rent and more!

metropolis presents...



FIRST LADY OF SONG ALEXIS J. ROSTON SINGS ELLA FITZGERALD

February 24, 2025 • 7:30 pm • \$49/\$45
February 25, 2025 • 2:00 pm • \$49/\$45

Award-winner Alexis J Roston salutes America's favorite jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald. Roston is known for her mesmerizing star turn as Billie Holiday in multiple productions of Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, earning Chicago's Jeff Award and Black Theatre Alliance Award.

*Sponsored by the Bob White
Memorial Concert Fund*

ARTISTS LOUNGE LIVE



THE CHICAGO EXPERIENCE A TRIBUTE TO ROCK WITH HORNS

March 29, 2025 • 7:30 pm • \$39/\$35

The Chicago Experience returns to Metropolis by popular demand! Experience Chicago without sitting in traffic and be ready to behold the power of brass. This ultimate tribute band delivers hit after hit as they seamlessly recreate the soulful sounds of Chicago. Enjoy all the hits like Saturday in the Park, 25 or 6 to 4, Make Me Smile, and some deep cuts you haven't heard in a while. Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is? We do – it's time to get your tickets before it's too late.



HEY THERE: THE MUSIC OF ROSEMARY CLOONEY

April 3, 2025 • 1:00 pm • \$39/\$35

Rosemary Clooney captured the hearts of America with her beautiful voice and catchy tunes. Now, actress Kaity Paschetto, who has shone in regional productions of Anything Goes, Legally Blonde, Cabaret and more, embodies the charm and crystal-clear voice of Rosemary Clooney on stage. With a backing trio, Paschetto brings new excitement to favorite songs.

L I S A
ROCK
ENTERTAINMENT

metropolis presents...



HEARTFELT HARMONIES WITH RADIUS

February 15, 2025 • 3:00 pm • \$30/\$35

Radius is a Chicago-based, 5-piece powerhouse vocal band that emerged from the virtual realm in 2020 during the height of the pandemic. As the winners of the 2023 National Harmony Sweepstakes, the nation's premier vocal competition, they quickly gained recognition for their mesmerizing harmonies, innovative arrangements, and infectious personalities. With high-energy repertoire carefully curated, Radius transcends generational boundaries, leaving an indelible mark on every listener.



SECOND HAND NEWS: A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC

April 4, 2025 • 7:30 pm • \$40/\$35

Second Hand News recreates the experience of seeing Fleetwood Mac in their heyday.

Made up of veteran local musicians (Melissa Brausch, Josh Chicoine, Mike Holtz, Dan Ingenthron, Mike Vanier, and Lindsay Weinberg), the band features spot-on vocal harmonies and electric live shows. The spirit and musicianship of Mick Fleetwood, John and Christine McVie, Stevie Nicks, and Lindsey Buckingham come to life on stage.



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES: A USO SALUTE ENCORE

May 13, 2025 • 1:00 pm • \$39/\$35

Paying homage to those entertainers who sang and danced for our troops during the 1940s, this USO Salute includes a tribute to such artists as the Andrews Sisters, Judy Garland, Bob Hope, Rosemary Clooney, and many more. Backed by a 4-piece band, five powerhouse singers recreate an afternoon of a classic USO show full of memorable songs, comedic numbers, and slapstick entertainment.

Sponsored by Lynn and Doug Steffen



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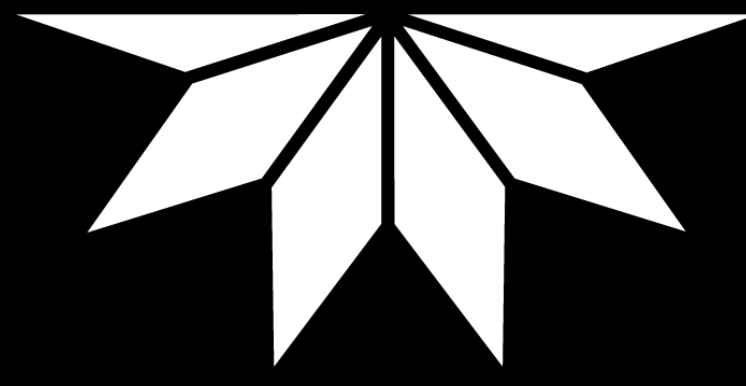
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