



*Stage Crafters*

Community Theatre, Inc.

PRODUCTION OF

# RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by  
**Jonathan Larson**

Musical Arrangements  
**Steve Skinner**

Original Concept and  
Additional Lyrics  
**Billy Aronson**

Music Supervision and  
Additional Arrangements  
**Tim Weil**

Dramaturg  
**Lynn Thomson**

RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop  
and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and  
New York Theatre Workshop

Directed by **Craig Ewing & Nancy Kruzek**

Music Director **Shalyce Kauzlarich**

Choreographed by **Katherine Wallace**

Conductor **Jim Lee**

Scan here for  
digital program

[www.StageCraftersFWB.com](http://www.StageCraftersFWB.com)

# 2026 PATRON SPOTLIGHT

## STAGE MANAGER—\$1,400

Adam Bartleson  
Billy & Holly Moore

## CHOREOGRAPHER—\$750

Tim Gibson

## THESPIAN—\$400

Mark & Sherry Murphy  
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Dennis & Karen Lauer  
Jean Hood  
Jolene Bruce  
Melissa & Eric Raulerson  
Tom Wiley  
Larry & Jean Tashlik  
Eric May





Stage Crafters Community Theatre is an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization, and has been recognized as the longest, continuously running, all-volunteer community theatre in the state of Florida.

Although we are in our 54th season and many things have changed, many things have remained in place. Over 12,000 volunteers have learned and sharpened their skills with Stage Crafters, and our shows have reached more than 350,000 audience members.

Stage Crafters has managed to thrive for over 50 years and in 2023, with the help and support of the community and Impact 100, we finally purchased our Rehearsal Hall on Robinwood Drive! Thank you for being here and taking part in the start of our next 50 years!

## OUR MISSION

We promote artistic expression and community spirit through live community theatre, by producing interesting, entertaining, and cultural plays, musicals, and other forms of entertainment for our public to encourage creative effort in theatre arts. We train actors, directors, producers, and technical personnel. As a community-based organization, we also provide support to other civic organizations and charitable needs by donating time, talent, expertise, materials, and equipment. We provide a safe and much needed outlet for the community to interact, learn, and practice the performing arts at no cost.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

Legacy giving is also commonly referred to as planned giving as donors often plan these gifts years before they are distributed to the designated parties. Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn how you can make an impact today!

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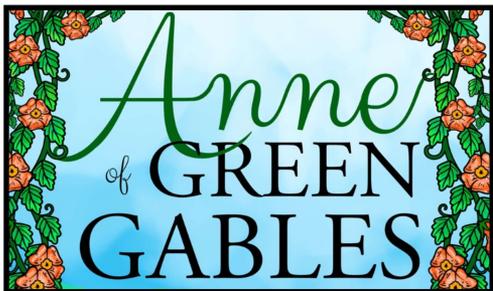
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# UPCOMING AUDITIONS



March 30th & 31st, 2026

Scripts available at 6:00 pm

Auditions begin at 6:30 pm

At:

Stage Crafters Rehearsal Hall

40 Robinwood Dr. SW

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

When elderly siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert asked the orphanage for a boy, they get Anne Shirley instead—a plucky redhead with a huge imagination (and an even bigger temper!). Soon, Anne burrows her way into the hearts of the Cuthberts, and the residents of Avonlea, as she grows from a hysterical twelve-year-old to a whip smart young woman who burns with ambition. Adapted with the greatest of care and love for the material, this Canadian classic keeps a cinematic pace as it faithfully follows Anne's journey through all of her iconic moments, including ones that many stage versions often leave out. (More details online.)

## VOLUNTEER

Interested in getting involved behind the scenes?

email [VOLUNTEER4STAGECRAFTERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VOLUNTEER4STAGECRAFTERS@GMAIL.COM)

## Chef Daniel Avallone

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the opening production of our 54th season! I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of you for being here today. Without the unwavering support of our patrons and volunteers, we simply would not be able to continue our mission to provide the quality live theatre that we currently do. Your presence makes our passion possible.

I also want to thank Craig Ewing and Nancy Kruzek and their outstanding production team, cast and crew for their dedication in bringing this powerful show to our stage.

If you haven't already purchased your season subscription, I encourage you to do so today, so that you don't miss a moment of our upcoming season. Our new subscription format offers more flexibility than our previous membership, and provides you with four tickets to use however you choose. You can see all four upcoming shows, use them all for one performance, or split them up however you'd like! Not only does the subscription offer versatility, but it also provides a discount—and we all appreciate saving a little money where we can!

Now, please make yourselves comfortable, sit back, and enjoy our presentation of *RENT!*

Thank you,  
Kevin F Clemons, Jr  
Stage Crafters President

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# RENT

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Directed by **Craig Ewing & Nancy Kruzek**

Choreographed by **Katherine Wallace**

Music Director **Shalyce Kauzlarich**

Conductor **Jim Lee**

**SETTING: Lower East Side, NYC, early '90s**

## Musical Numbers

### ACT ONE

Tune Up / Voicemail #1

Rent

You Okay, Honey?

One Song Glory

Light My Candle

Voicemail #2

Today For You

You'll See

Tango Maureen

Support Group

Out Tonight

Another Day

Will I

On The Street

Santa Fe

I'll Cover You

We're Okay

Christmas Bells

Over The Moon

La Vie Boheme / I Should Tell You

### ACT TWO

Seasons of Love

Happy New Year / Voicemail #3

Voicemail #4 / Happy New Year

Take Me or Leave Me

Without You

Voicemail #5

Contact

I'll Cover You – Reprise

Halloween

Goodbye Love

What You Own

Voicemail #6

Your Eyes / Finale



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# CAST

(in order of appearance)

ROGER DAVIS.....Nathan Burdge  
MARK COHEN.....Matthew Gibbons  
TOM COLLINS.....Michael Anthony Butler  
BENJAMIN COFFIN III.....Chris Lipford  
JOANNE JEFFERSON.....Jess Wise  
MIMI MARQUEZ.....Aavery Floyd  
ANGEL DUMOTT SCHUNARD.....Tristyn Sherman  
MAUREEN JOHNSON.....Baylee Crotzer

## ENSEMBLE

(in alphabetical order)

Jdehiel Alvarenga, Tim Bartley, Danielle Hagan, Shelby Harkins, Chuck Harrison, Kevin Henry, Jacob Koon, Angelina Pennington, Olivia Powell, Kaelyn Raulerson, Melissa Raulerson, David Simmons, Valerie Soltis, Jaiden Rae Strange, and Erica Thornton-Touchton

## PRODUCTION CREW

CO-DIRECTORS.....Craig Ewing & Nancy Kruzek  
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....Shalyce Kauzlarich  
CHOREOGRAPHER.....Katherine Wallace  
BAND DIRECTOR.....Jim Lee  
PRODUCER/PROPS COORDINATOR.....Darsi Ewing  
STAGE MANAGER.....Tracy Sherman  
SET/LIGHTING DESIGN/LIGHT BOARD OPERATION.....Craig Ewing  
SET CONSTRUCTION CHAIR.....Kevin Clemons  
SET CONSTRUCTION.....Shawn Laine, Bekki Lair, Chirs Holovack,  
David Goodfriend, Jeralynn Shanks & Charlie Adams  
COSTUME CHAIR/DESIGNER.....Chris LaPorta  
ASSISTANT COSTUME CHAIR.....Shannon Moulton  
SOUND DESIGN/OPERATION.....Michael Menges & Shalyce Kauzlarich  
SET DRESSING.....Tim Bartley & Dan Avallone  
LIGHT INSTALLATION.....Craig Ewing & Tyler Ewing  
SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS.....Terera Hawkins & David Goodfriend  
ASMs.....Mark Hebert, Erin Egan, Paula Eddington & Will Eddington  
HAIR & MAKEUP (for Angel).....Lucy Poston  
WIG STYLISTS.....Trina King McCullough, Abigail Huhtala-Henderson & Sara Jackson  
DANCE CAPTAIN/ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER.....Caitlin TaraBori  
HOUSE MANAGER.....Shawn Laine  
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER.....John Stackpoole  
PUBLICITY CHAIRS.....Deborah Dodge & Maddie Ostrowski  
PROGRAMS.....Douglas Henderson  
HEADSHOTS.....Marcia Wright-Reynolds  
VIDEOGRAPHER.....Chris Holovack

# MEET THE CAST

(in order of appearance)



## NATHAN BURDGE (Roger Davis)

Nathan began acting at age 10 as Gavroche in *Les Misérables*, followed by roles as Simba in *The Lion King* and Troy Bolton in *High School Musical*. He later performed in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Footloose*, and then made his Stage Crafters debut as Richie Walters in *A Chorus Line*. He took a break from the stage to pursue TV and film acting with Carol Shaginaw Talent Agency in Atlanta, and to focus on music with his band Paper Matches. He is excited to return to the stage in *RENT* and reunite with his favorite directors, Craig Ewing and Nancy Kruzek. Nathan has loved *RENT* since he was a kid, and as a musician, he strongly relates to Roger's journey. He can't wait to share this music with such a talented cast and this community.



## MATTHEW GIBBONS (Mark Cohen)

This is Matthew's third show at Stage Crafters, previously playing Max in *Lend Me A Tenor* and 'Sweaty' Eddie in *Sister Act: The Musical*. Matthew moved to the Emerald Coast in 2022 after falling in love back in 2017 on a vacation here (very original, I know). He would like to dedicate this and every show to his wonderful wife, Shannon, who has supported him through thick and thin. His second passion is Real Estate, if you are looking to buy, sell, or invest anywhere in the panhandle, contact Matthew!



## MICHAEL ANTHONY BUTLER (Tom Collins)

Michael is thrilled to make his Stage Crafters debut in his favorite musical — *RENT!* Michael has a strong passion for theatre and has performed in many productions in Florida, making this his 45th theatrical production. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from the University of West Florida and a Master of Science degree in Information Technology from Florida State University. Previous favorite roles include Bisset in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Drunk Willie/Principal Milton Welch in *Akeelah and the Bee*, Scotty in *Ripcord*, Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Snake in *The School for Scandal*, Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid*, and All Good Gifts Soloist in *Godspell*. Thank you for coming to support live theatre and enjoying the show!



## CHRIS LIPFORD (Benjamin Coffin III)

Chris is thrilled to be making his debut with Stage Crafters after a 14-year hiatus from acting. His all-time favorite musical *RENT* was the first Broadway production he ever saw on stage, and having the opportunity to be in a production himself is a dream come true! By day, he is an aerospace engineer for the... (cont.)

(cont.) ...United States Air Force. Off-base and off-stage, Chris enjoys spending his time reading, relaxing on the beach, sipping craft beers at the local breweries, and exploring the area's parks and trails with his dog, Lila. He is grateful for his friends and family for their love and support, and he'd like to give thanks to the cast and crew for making his return to the world of theater one of the best experiences of his life so far. Viva la vie Boehme!



## JESS WISE (Joanne Jefferson)

Jess is ecstatic to be back with Stage Crafters performing such a great role in one of their all-time favorite musicals! An alumnus of Niceville High's Opus One and Stetson University's Opera program, they performed in various Plays, Operas and Cabarets throughout Orlando and Chicago before returning to Niceville in 2019. Jess joined the Stage Crafters family as the Minstrel in the 2023 production of *Something Rotten the Musical*. They've also appeared as Jane in *The Naked Truth* (2024), and Dianna in *Lend me a Tenor* (2025). Before auditioning for *RENT*, they joined Mosaic Theatre Co.'s shadow cast of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* as Columbia. Jess would like to thank their awesome parents, all (6) of their sisters, their kiddos and their "Tribe" for all the praise and support a little ham could wish for. Most importantly, they would like to thank their wife Laura for being the most supportive and adoring soulmate possible.



## AAVERY FLOYD (Mimi Marquez)

Aavery is returning to the stage as Mimi and would like to thank her family and friends. As always, support your local public school.



## TRISTYN SHERMAN (Angel Dumott Schunard)

Tristyn Sherman makes his Stage Crafters debut as Angel Dumott Schunard! He is a Freshman BFA musical theatre student at the University of West Florida and is overjoyed to be a part of such a special show as *RENT*. Some of his most notable performances include Ren in *Footloose* and Stacey Jax in *Rock of Ages* (both at Navarre High School), Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!* (Pensacola State College), and Andrew in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (University of West Florida). Tristyn has always wanted to be a part of *RENT*, but never in a million years would he imagine himself playing Angel. He has developed a very personal connection with the character and shares similar feelings, experiences, hopes, and desires, and wants the audience to walk away with a newfound sense of love. If he's learned one thing from Angel it's to be yourself 100% in the present moment, because tomorrow is never guaranteed.



## BAYLEE CROTZER (Maureen Johnson)

This is Baylee's first show with Stage Crafters. She has previously performed in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *All My Sons*, *Clybourne Park*, *Newsies*, *Descendant's*, and *Women of Lockerbie*. She is thrilled to share this experience with the cast and crew of *RENT*.

## ENSEMBLE

(in alphabetical order)



## JDEHIEL ALVARENGA

Jdehiel is singer/songwriter, and performer with a deep love for expressive, truth-driven art. He is very grateful to contribute to a show that celebrates love, community, and living authentically.



## DANIELLE HAGAN

Danielle (Dani) is a new company member of Stage Crafters. Dani is currently working on her Associate of the Arts at Northwest Florida State College. She knew she loved theatre at first sight, taking part in her first performance in fifth grade, and since, she performed through high school, several community theatre productions, and one professional show so far. Over the last two years she has performed several roles at The Story House, Emerald Coast Theatre Company, Mosaic Theatre Company, and Northwest Florida State College. She wants nothing more than to pursue theatre as her career and passion. Dani is so excited to be making her Stage Crafters debut and to be able to help bring this show to life.



## SHELBY HARKINS

Shelby is thrilled to be part of the *RENT* ensemble and is returning to the stage for the first time in adulthood. She is beyond excited to be sharing the stage with such a talented, kind, and passionate cast. Outside of theatre, Shelby serves as Vice President of Emerald Coast United, a nonprofit dedicated to disaster relief and search and rescue, and is the Head of Social Media for the Florida Cinderella Scholarship Pageant, where she once held numerous titles. Shelby would like to thank her Granna for keeping Sutton during rehearsals and supporting Shelby's theatrical pursuits; her best friend, Kaylin, for constant encouragement and belief; and her voice teacher, Lloyd, for helping her find her voice and for his unwavering support.



## CHUCK HARRISON

Chuck is honored to perform with this talented *RENT* cast! A member of Stage Crafters for 7 seasons, he has spent time on and off stage, and currently serves as Secretary on Stage Crafters' Executive Board. Favorite prior roles include Big Bad Wolf in *Shrek the Musical*, Lord Clapham in *Something Rotten*, and Bellhop in *Lend Me a Tenor*. He would like to thank Craig and Nancy for the opportunity to be on stage and hopes these performances honor Jonathan Larson's legacy and those lost during the AIDS pandemic.



## KEVIN HENRY

This is Kevin's 5th season with Stage Crafters, having just acted in *Sister Act: The Musical*. When not on stage, he can be found at the library or working on his degree at NWFSC. He would like to thank his sister and partner for always believing in him and encouraging him to keep moving forward. Nothing would mean anything without them.



## JACOB KOON

Jacob is excited to return to the stage. His love for theatre and musicals started with growing up singing and dancing around the house with his mom. He began acting in the 4th grade as the teacher in *Field trip to the Farm*, and then went on to play Jerry in *The Outsiders*, the teacher in *All I Need to Know*, *I Learned in Kindergarten*, and then the butler/party goer in *The Great Gatsby*. He now spends his days working as a professional stilt walker for parties and events! *RENT* has been one of his favorite musicals for a long time. He has a strong connection to the song *Seasons of Love*, with it being sentimental towards his time in high school theatre.



## ANGELINA PENNINGTON

Angelina Pennington is thrilled to return to the stage in *RENT* as Alexi Darling, a support group member, and a small group dancer. After being active in theater throughout her youth, this production marks her first performance as an adult, and she dedicates her performances to her eldest sister, Anastasia, who introduced her to her love of music through the song *Seasons of Love*. *RENT* will always hold a special place in her heart because of her late sister, Anastasia. "I was 5 years old when she was a senior in high school and they impromptu performed *Seasons of Love* against their choir director's wishes. They came together for the music, and you could see the life, happiness, and musicality in that small town theater. Anastasia passed away too soon, and as an organ donor, she had an honor walk where the last song she ever heard was *I'll Cover You* reprise.



## OLIVIA POWELL

Olivia is excited to be part of *RENT*. Back in her hometown in Yarmouth, Maine, she enjoyed participating in community and high school theatre. Outside of theatre, she enjoys gardening and going on runs with her dog. *RENT* is a show she grew up watching with her mom, and having an opportunity to work with this amazing team has been a full circle moment for her.



## KAELYN RAULERSON

Kaelyn Noelani Raulerson began studying Pre-Law at UWF in January after finishing her AA at NWFSC on a music scholarship. This is her second show with Stage Crafters after making a return to acting following her last show in 2017. She performed a solo and as a student conducted her high school choir in France, as well as serving as the show choir's Vice President. She hopes to pursue music with a purpose, and dedicates every performance to her late younger sister, Payton, who ran the spotlight for Stage Crafters.



## MELISSA RAULERSON

An Army veteran and the spouse of a retired Green Beret, Melissa brings a life of service, resilience, and heart to both stage and community. She currently serves as Vice President of the Executive Board of Stage Crafters and has been immersed in the world of theatre since the age of 13, as a performer, director, and behind-the-scenes creative. Her favorite and most notable roles include Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Titania and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Blanche in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and Miss Scarlett in *Clue*. This production marks her second musical appearance alongside her oldest daughter, Kaelyn, a collaboration that holds special meaning for their family. This show is deeply personal and it is dedicated to the memory of Payton Emily Raulerson, who tragically lost her life to suicide in December 2024 after being bullied.



## DAVID SIMMONS

David was the music director of Stage Crafters' production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and will music direct *Guys and Dolls* this fall. He's performed in such shows as *Something Rotten!* (Bro. Jeremiah), *Mary Poppins* (Mr. Banks), *Miracle in Bedford Falls* (Mr. Potter: SC's Best Supporting Actor), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and many more, as well as served on the Stage Crafters board. He's been in several operas, to include *La Traviata*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. A Professor of Film Studies and Humanities at NWFSC and conducted the NWF Symphony Chorale... (continued)

(cont.) ...he's also one of the founders and President of PFLAG Niceville, a support group for LGBTQ+ people and their allies. He would like to thank his partner, Logan, for all his support, understanding, and caring for their new puppy, Daisy, during rehearsals.



## VALERIE SOLTIS

This is Valerie's eighth production with Stage Crafters! Some of her favorite past roles include Cha Cha in *Grease*, Elvira in *A Monster Cabaret*, Lizzy in *Daddy's Girl*, and tap dancing in the ensemble in *Young Frankenstein* and *Shrek The Musical*. When she's not singing, dancing, and acting, Valerie loves her job teaching middle school Math at NFB. She thanks her amazing husband Bryan, family and friends for their love, encouragement and support.



## JAIDEN RAE STRANGE

Jaiden Rae Strange is very excited for her second production with Stage Crafters! She was most recently seen in *Sister Act: The Musical* as Sister Mary Robert. Aside from theatre, she is a student at NWFSC and loves to sing in her free time. She is very grateful that this cast and crew have welcomed her with open arms! Lastly thank you to her family, friends, and community for always supporting her!



## ERICA THORNTON-TOUCHTON

This is Erica's 4th show with Stage Crafters. She was recently Deloris in *Sister Act: The Musical* (2025) for which she just received the 2025 Stage Crafters Best Actress award. She was also Muzzy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2020), and Dragon in *Shrek the Musical* (2022). She is a Fort Walton Beach native, and is a member of Beulah 1st Baptist Church where she is a proud member of the worship arts and drama ministry.



## TIM BARTLEY

My Stage Crafters' journey started 10 years ago in *9 to 5: The Musical*. Since then I have been on stage for multiple productions, and all of them were musicals. For the past few years I have been spending most of my Stage Crafters time in set dressing, from a diner to a swamp to a Greek getaway, and having fun putting an artistic touch to the vision of the directors.

# MEET THE DIRECTORS



## CRAIG EWING (Co-Director)

This is the 17th musical Craig has directed! He has been wanting to bring *RENT* to the stage for quite a while, and with this awesome cast and production staff, he could not be happier! Craig has won many awards for Best Show as director of *Nunsense*, *Nunsense II*, *South Pacific*, *Nuncrackers*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Jekyll & Hyde The Musical*, *Spamalot*, *A Chorus Line*, *Mamma Mia*, *Grease*, and *Shrek, the Musical*. He has also appeared onstage in more than 15 Stage Crafters' shows, including *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Little Me*, the last two roles winning Best Supporting Actor awards. Backstage, he's done it all from President, to set chair, technical committee chair, lighting master, and has been our Business Manager for over 30 years. Craig has a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering and retired after 35+ years in civil service for the Air Force Research Laboratory. He now works for a prime defense contractor as a Fellow in Mission Engineering, and is married to Darsi (our Producer) and they have two boys (and two daughters-in-law!). He is thrilled to be directing again with this outstanding directing and production staff!

## NANCY KRUZEK (Co-Director)

A past president and frequent Board member, Nancy has won countless awards for acting, directing, and technical achievement during her many years with Stage Crafters. She is also thrilled to share Best Show awards with co-director Craig for several shows including *A Chorus Line*, *Mamma Mia*, *Grease*, and *Shrek the Musical*, among many others. Nancy thanks the incredible cast and crew for their amazing work bringing this production to life... (continued)

(cont.) ...Without the continued sweat equity of Kevin, terrific choreography of Katherine, beautiful sounds of Shalyce, fabulous music of Jim and The Band, and dedication of our cast and crew, this exciting production would never have made it onto our stage.

## SHALYCE KAUZLARICH (Music Director)

This is Shalyce's eleventh show as Music Director-her most recent shows include *Shrek The Musical*, *Grease*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Pajama Game*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Spamalot*. She has also been behind the scenes for numerous productions in many different roles as well as appearing on the stage in *The Sound of Music* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. When not in rehearsal or backstage, Shalyce enjoys her role as an elementary school music & art teacher. She was recently recognized as Teacher of the Year for her school. Shalyce is honored to be a part of this awesome production team and thankful for the support and patience of her husband, Phillip Kauzlarich.

## KATHERINE WALLACE (Choreographer)

Katherine is so excited to be returning to Stage Crafters as choreographer for this production! You've previously seen her choreography featured in *Mamma Mia*, *The Pajama Game*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Addams Family*, and *Shrek the Musical*. You might remember her on stage in *A Chorus Line*, *Spamalot*, or *Noises Off*. After taking some time away from the theatre to start her family, she is absolutely thrilled to make her return with this cast and can't wait to showcase their talents on stage! She is so thankful to her husband Brandon for encouraging her return to the arts and doing lots of solo bedtimes with the kiddos over the last few months!

## JIM LEE (Band Director)

Jim has worked with Stage Crafters with Nancy and Craig for over 20 years. His last show was *Jekyll and Hyde the Musical*. He is glad to be asked to be part of *RENT*. Jim enjoys all FSU sports, pickleball, theater trips to NYC and our cocker spaniel, Sullee!

## DARSI EWING (Producer)

Darsi has been the producer for all of Craig's productions with Stage Crafters. She currently continues to serve as Treasurer on the Executive Board. She has also helped in other areas of production to include costumes, props, ASM, light operator, set dressing, and more. ALWAYS behind the scenes and lights!! When not volunteering with Stage Crafters, Darsi is a Program Manager at Eglin AFB. Hope you enjoy the show!



# TRACY SHERMAN (Stage Manager)

Tracy has been part of Stage Crafters since the very beginning, following in the footsteps of her mother, one of the organization's co-founders. She first graced Stage Crafters' stage as Gloria in *Wait Until Dark* in 1975, and has since delighted audiences in a wide range of memorable roles, including Belinda in *Johnny Belinda*, Dottie in *Noises Off*, and Madam Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*. Along the way, Tracy has earned several acting awards for her performances. Her contributions extend far beyond the stage. She is currently Chair of the Directors Committee, and has worked behind the scenes as an Assistant Stage Manager, Stage Manager, and Director. Her first foray into directing was in 1986, and she recently directed last summer's whodunit, *Murder's in the Heir*, continuing her long legacy of loving theatre! By day, Tracy is a Speech-Language Pathologist, partnering with families and coaching them to help their toddler be the best little person s/he can be. Tracy is also a very (very) active Toastmaster and has held several leadership roles within our Toastmasters District.

## MEET THE BAND

(in no particular order)

### MADDY YEUNG (1st Keyboard)

Maddy has spent the last few years working as a collaborative pianist in the Florida Panhandle. Her musical theater work has been with The Story House, Mosaic Theatre Company, and most recently, Stage Crafters! She is so excited to be a part of *RENT* with this fantastic cast and crew!

### JIM LEE (2nd Keyboard, Band Director)

(See Jim's bio in the Production Staff Bios.)

### RICHARD REINLE (Percussion)

Richard (Dick) Reinlie is a talented musician and the owner of UpBeat Music in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He can frequently be seen performing with groups such as the Side Project, Jazz Knights, and Beach Daze, captivating audiences with his dynamic drumming and love for live music. With a commitment to both music and community, Dick continues to inspire others while pursuing his passion for the art of drumming.

### NICK BARLOTTA (Guitar)

Nick is a Financial Advisor who has played guitar for various local bands over the years and currently plays guitar and keyboard for the band Side Project.

### BART FLEET (Bass Guitar)

A former FSU music major, Bart is currently an attorney with the law firm of Fleet, Smith & Freeman. Bart is a lifetime resident of Fort Walton Beach and has been active in the local music scene since the late 60's, performing with various bands. He currently plays electric bass and upright bass with the band Side Project.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Twisted Grape, Okaloosa DONUTS Yummies!, Wiley's Pizza, Christopher Holovack, and Chris LaPorta, who traveled here from Toledo, OH, to costume our actors through the run of the show!

# MEET THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Larson

Jonathan Larson received the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *RENT*. He also won the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical and the 1994 Richard Rodgers Award for *RENT* and twice received The Gilman & Gonzales-Falla Theatre Foundation's Comendation Award. In 1989 he was granted the Stephen Sondheim Award from American Music Theatre Festival, where he contributed to the musical *Sitting on the Edge of the Future*. In 1988 he won the Richard Rodgers Development Grant for his rock musical *Superbia*, which was staged at Playwrights Horizon. He composed the score for the musical *J.P. Morgan Saves the Nation*, which was presented by En Garde Arts in 1995. Mr. Larson performed his rock monologue *tick, tick... BOOM!* at Second Stage Theatre, The Village Gate, and New York Theatre Workshop. In addition to scoring and song writing for Sesame Street, he created music for a number of children's book-cassettes, including Steven Spielberg's *An American Tail* and *Land Before Time*. Other film scores include work for Rolling Stones magazine publisher Jann Wenner. He conceived, directed and wrote four original songs for *Away We Go!*, a musical video for children. *RENT*, his rock opera based on *La Boheme*, had its world premiere on February 13, 1996 at New York Theatre Workshop. Mr. Larson died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on January 25, 1996, ten days before his 36th birthday. His music (including songs cut from his shows) is archived in the Library of Congress.

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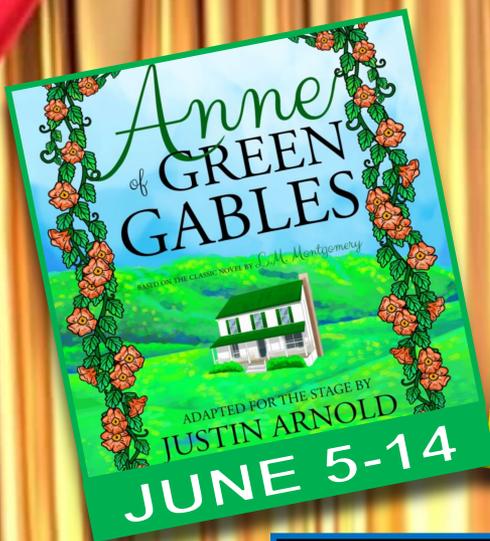
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