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*Alvin  
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FEB 28-29

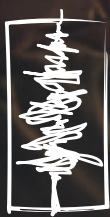
*Jesus Christ  
Superstar*  
MAR 3-8

*The Price is  
Right Live!*  
MAR 24-25

*The Color  
Purple*  
MAR 27-29

*The Bachelor  
Live on Stage*  
MAY 2

# Winter Getaway



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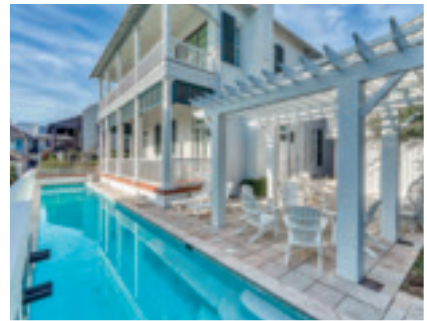
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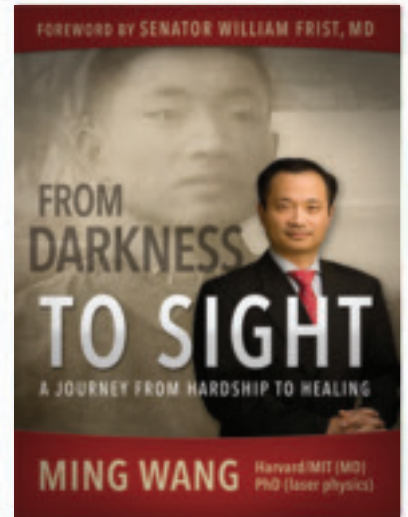


# From Darkness to Sight

*From Darkness to Sight* chronicles the remarkable life journey of Dr. Ming Wang, Harvard & MIT (MD, *magna cum laude*); PhD (laser physics), a world-renowned laser eye surgeon, philanthropist, and Kiwanis Nashvillian of the Year.

As a teenager, Ming fought valiantly to escape one of history's darkest eras - China's Cultural Revolution - during which millions of innocent youth were deported to remote areas to face a life sentence of poverty and hard labor. He eventually made his way to the U.S. with \$50 in his pocket, where against all odds, he earned a PhD in laser physics and graduated with the highest honors from Harvard Medical School and MIT.

Dr. Wang has performed over 55,000 eye procedures including on over 4,000 physicians. He has published 9 textbooks, holds several U.S. patents, and performed the world's first laser artificial cornea implantation. Drs. Ming Wang and Joshua Frenkel are currently the only surgeons in the state who performs 3D SMILE and 3D LASIK (18+), 3D Implantable Contact Lens (21+), 3D Forever Young Lens (45+), and 3D Laser Cataract Surgery (60+). Dr. Wang established a non-profit charity, which to date has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries, with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge.



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Ming and his younger brother Ming-yu



With President Ronald Reagan at The White House



Harvard & MIT (MD); PhD (laser physics)



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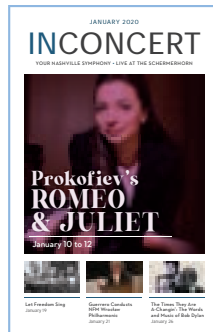
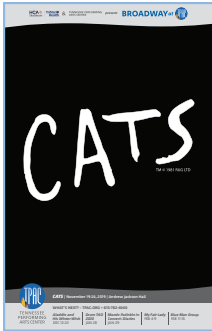


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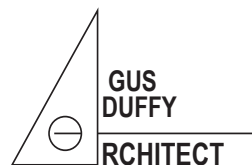
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— THE NEW YORK TIMES  
ON RONALD K. BROWN / EVIDENCE

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**Stew and Heidi**  
MUSIC/THEATER | **JAN 31 - FEB 1**

**New Dialect's *The Triangle***  
DANCE | **FEB 20-22**

**TeatroCinema (Chile)**  
THEATER/MULTIMEDIA | **MARCH 5-7**

**Dave Ragland  
and Inversion Vocal Ensemble**  
MUSIC/OPERA/DANCE | **APRIL 17-18**

**Ronald K. Brown / EVIDENCE**  
DANCE | **MAY 8-10**

**Jana Harper's *This Holding***  
VISUAL ART/DANCE | **MAY 29-30**

**Grand Magnolia**  
IMMERSIVE THEATER | **JUNE 10-21**

PHOTO BY ERNESTO MANCERO

PHOTO BY ANTONIO ZAGAL



TEATROCINEMA



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AND INVERSION VOCAL ENSEMBLE



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# Diary of a Wombat

A new Australian play based on the multi-award-winning picture book by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley

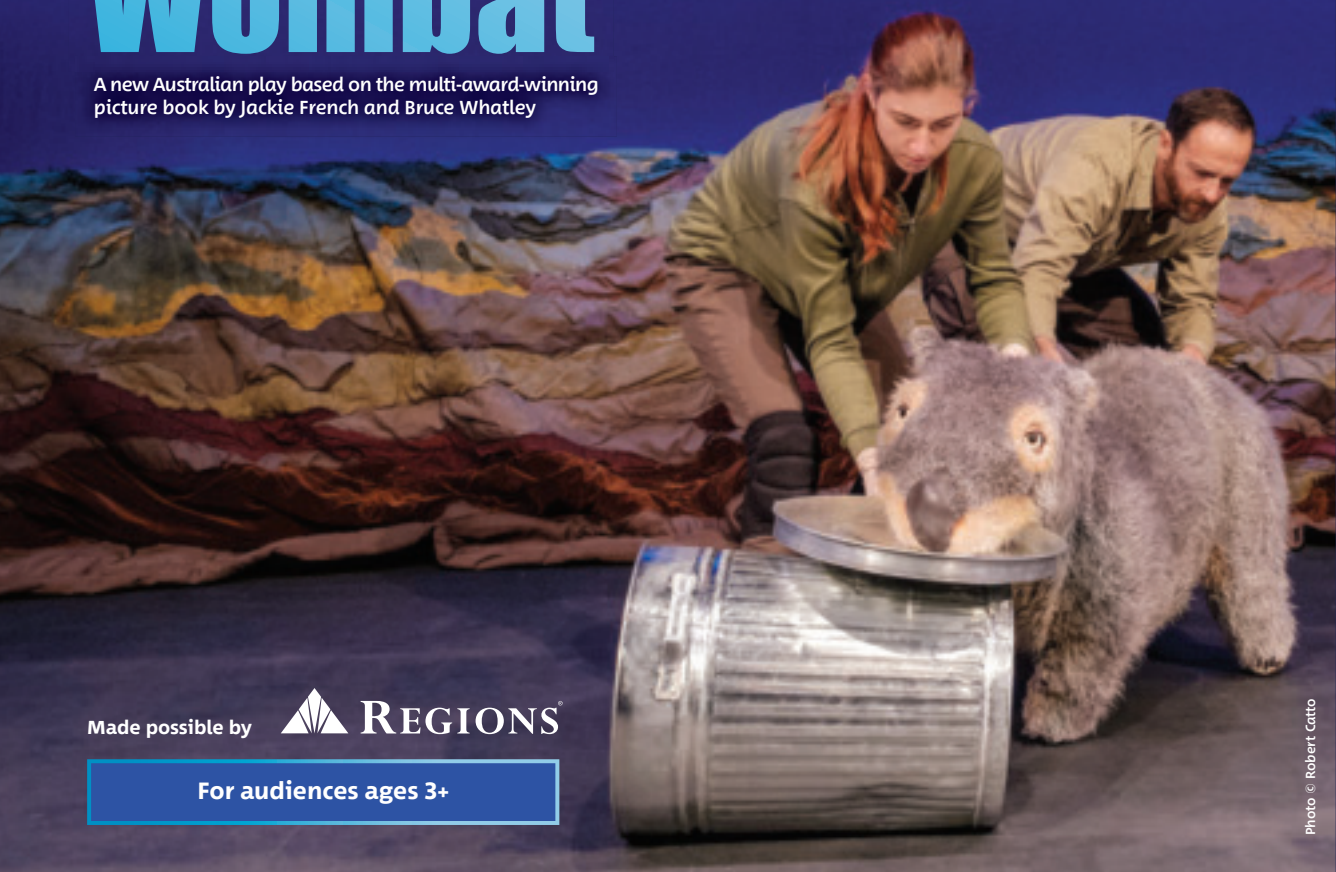


Photo © Robert Catto

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For audiences ages 3+

**Bring your family to TPAC and delight in the antics of one of Australia's iconic animals.**

All proceeds benefit WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue, and Education Service Inc.), Australia's largest wildlife rescue organization, currently helping sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in fire areas.

When Mothball, the naughtiest wombat in Australia, gets bored with her daily routine, she goes in search of shelter and food, creating chaos in the lives of the humans around her. Doormats, trashcans and washing lines are no match for this mischievous marsupial. Between a packed schedule of scratching, sleeping and eating, Mothball discovers that with a bit of persistence humans are quite easily trained!

**Diary of a Wombat**

**Saturday, MARCH 7**  
11:00 a.m.

TPAC's Polk Theater

**\$10 General Admission**

**TPAC.ORG/Wombat • 615-782-4040**  
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This presentation is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.  
This tour is proudly supported by the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC.



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*presents*



*Written by*  
**JONATHAN KNIGHT      MICHAEL DAHLEN      BLUE MAN GROUP**

*Composers*  
**ANDREW SCHNEIDER      JEFF TURLIK**

*Blue Men*  
**MERIDIAN      MIKE BROWN      STEVEN WENDT      ADAM ZUICK**

*Musicians*  
**CORKY GAINSFORD      ROBERT GOMEZ      JERRY KOPS**

<i>Set Designer</i> <b>JASON ARDIZZONE-WEST</b>	<i>Lighting Designer</i> <b>JEN SCHRIEVER</b>	<i>Costume Designer</i> <b>EMILIO SOSA</b>	<i>Sound Designer</i> <b>CREST FACTOR</b>
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<i>Video Designer</i> <b>LUCY MACKINNON</b>	<i>Blue Man Character Costumes</i> <b>PATRICIA MURPHY</b>	<i>SFX Designer</i> <b>BILL SWARTZ</b>
--	--	---

<i>Creative Director</i> <b>JONATHAN KNIGHT</b>	<i>Production Stage Manager</i> <b>RICHARD HERRICK</b>	<i>Music Director</i> <b>BYRON ESTEP</b>
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<i>Company Manager</i> <b>STACY MYERS</b>	<i>Production Stage Manager</i> <b>ANNA K. RAINS</b>	<i>Head Carpenter</i> <b>ZACHARY FEIVOU</b>
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<i>General Management</i> <b>GENTRY &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> <b>GREGORY VANDER PLOEG</b>	<i>Tour Booking, Marketing and Publicity Direction</i> <b>BOND THEATRICAL GROUP</b>	<i>Production Management</i> <b>NETWORKS PRESENTATIONS</b> <b>WALKER WHITE</b>
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<i>Line Producer</i> <b>JENNIE RYAN</b>	<i>Executive Producers</i> <b>BENOIT MATHIEU &amp; SETH WENIG</b>
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*Directed by*  
**JENNY KOONS**

Original Creators - **MATT GOLDMAN, PHIL STANTON, CHRIS WINK**

A CIRQUE DU SOLEIL Entertainment Group and NETWORKS Presentation

Additional Music Composer and Collaborators - Lotic & Holly  
Original Direction by Blue Man Group and Marlene Swartz  
Original Executive Producer - Maria Di Dia

Original Associate Producers - Akie Kimura Topal & Broadway Line Company  
Original New York production presented in a workshop production at La MaMa E.T.C.

# Who's Who in the Cast

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**MERIDIAN** (*Blue Man Captain*) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from Lawrence University and his Master of Fine Arts from the National Theatre Conservatory. He has performed as a Blue Man in New York, Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, and all over the United States as part of the group's first North American Tour. Internationally he has performed as a Blue Man in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, China, South Africa, Mexico, Russia, and Canada as part of the World Tours. He is thrilled to be going back on the road with the cast and crew of the *Blue Man Group* North American Tour.

**MIKE BROWN** (*Blue Man*) has been Blue for over a decade and a half. For him it has all been a dream come true. He would not be where he is today without the love and support of his family and friends. He is grateful for you all! Mike hopes you enjoy the show and that you get a chance to pick up a good book this year.

**STEVEN WENDT** (*Blue Man*) hails from Kansas City, MO. When not on tour, Steven performs *Blue Man Group* in New York City. Steven is also a professional puppeteer, Hand Shadow Master, and Goldsmith. Visit [www.studiowendt.com](http://www.studiowendt.com).

**ADAM ZUICK** (*Blue Man*) has been living the dream of being a Blue Man since 2013! Previous *Blue Man Group* companies include Orlando, the company's first North American tour, Chicago and New York. Special shout out to Adam Berger and love to my supportive family and friends.

**CORKY GAINSFORD** (*Drummer*) has been a *Blue Man Group* drummer for 18 years, primarily in their Las Vegas Production and *The Complex Rock Tour*. He's also a producer, songwriter and recording engineer, releasing original music through his band Code Red Riot.

**ROBERT GOMEZ** (*Resident Music Director/Band Captain*) is a resident of Las Vegas, NV. Robert graduated from Las Vegas Academy of the Arts where he honed his ability as a studied multi-instrumentalist. Both performer and technician, Robert has worked with *Blue Man Group* for eleven years.

**JERRY KOPS** (*Musician/Strings*) is a New York-based multi-instrumentalist who has been performing with *Blue Man Group* since 2006. He also played guitar with the original Broadway cast of *Rock of Ages* from 2009-2010. From 2010 through 2012, Jerry was a member of the *Blue Man Group* North American Tour playing Zither and Chapman Stick. When not performing with *Blue Man Group*, Jerry can be found writing, recording and performing with his band Mortars.

**JONATHAN KNIGHT** (*Creative Director*) is a Creative Director for *Blue Man Group*. In that role he develops new work in various mediums for the company. He is currently the Creative Director for the new *Blue Man Group* North American Tour having most recently completed work on *Blue Man Group Berlin*, and the *Blue Man Group World Tour* which opened in Singapore and has since been touring steadily in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Knight is a long time member of *Blue Man Group* starting as a video operator for the Astor Place show in New York. Outside of *Blue Man Group*, Knight works as a writer and filmmaker having founded a small boutique production company in

2006 that focuses on social justice documentary, education and experimental artist collaborations. He has been an adjunct professor in the schools of the City University of New York teaching courses in video production, film theory, and film history.

**MICHAEL DAHLEN** (*Senior Creative Director/Writer*) began his career with *Blue Man Group* as a Blue Man performer in the New York City Astor Place Theatre production. From there he took on the role of Performer Director where he developed, cast and trained new Blue Man performers for all of the North American and international productions. As an Artistic Director he oversaw the creation, development, evolution and direction of existing *Blue Man Group* creative material and productions. In his current role as a Creative Director, Michael oversees the creation of new material for *Blue Man Group* current and new productions. For the *Blue Man Group* North American Tour, Dahlen serves as a Writer. During Dahlen's tenure at *Blue Man Group*, his highlights include direction of 5G shows in New York, Boston and Chicago, creation and direction of *Blue Man Group Berlin*, creation and direction of *Blue Man Group's* 2013 Hollywood Bowl appearance and recent updates to the *Blue Man Group* Chicago production.

**ANDREW SCHNEIDER** (*Composer*) is the Head of Music and Sound Production for *Blue Man Group*. He oversees all recording, mixing and produces audio content for a wide variety of applications including show and performance content, recording releases, video releases, marketing releases and more. He is an active and enthusiastic participant in the creation and composition of *Blue Man Group's* music and sounds. Schneider engineered *Blue Man Group's* debut album *Audio*, mixed their sophomore release *The Complex* and co-produced, mixed and engineered the group's third record *THREE*. Currently, Schneider serves as Musical Composer for the *Blue Man Group* North American Tour. Growing up in an artistic household, music and performance has been a part of Schneider's life from an early age. He began touring around the world in bands and recording music at the age of 18. As a freelance producer, mixer and engineer he has worked on nearly 1,000 Indie and major label releases with multiple Grammy and Juno nominations to date. Schneider earned a Fine Arts degree in Media from Massachusetts College of Art. He currently enjoys music, film, performance and spending time with his family.

**JEFF TURLIK** (*Composer*) oversees all aspects of music and recorded sounds for *Blue Man Group* as Creative Director and Music Supervisor. In Turlik's role as Composer for the North American Tour he has created a brand-new musical experience for *Blue Man Group's* second-ever North American theatrical tour. Turlik has been with the entertainment phenomenon since 1999, beginning as a band member in the Boston resident show. Shortly after, he turned his sights toward music writing and directing in New York to support *Blue Man Group's* domestic and global expansion. In addition to creating and mounting shows around the world, his career highlights include two performances at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, two sold out nights at the Hollywood Bowl with the L.A.



Philharmonic, *The Area2 Tour* (supporting David Bowie, Busta Rhymes and Moby), *The Complex Rock Tour*, *The Megastar* world tour, *The Tokyo Summersonic Music Festival*, *The Royal Variety Performance* for Queen Elizabeth II in Cardiff, Wales, *Carnival* in Salvador, Brazil and various television appearances. A native of Pittsburgh, Turlik attended Berklee College of Music in Boston. He spent his early career as a guitarist in hard rock bands, recording, touring, sleeping on floors, and has since worked as a musician, arranger, composer, music producer and music educator.

**JENNY KOONS** (*Director*) is thrilled to join the Blue Man family, as this tour marks her first-time collaboration with *Blue Man Group*. Recent productions include *Between Us: The Deck of Cards* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Public Theater Mobile Unit), *The Tempest* (The Juilliard School), *Burn All Night* (American Repertory Theater), *Gimme Shelter* (Why Not Theatre, Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games), and *A Sucker Emcee* (National Black Theatre, LAByrnth Theater Company). Jenny was the co-curator of the 2016 Toronto ThisGen Conference and co-founder of Artists 4 Change NYC (National Black Theatre). She has taught young artists here and abroad, and as an Asian-American woman, is a vocal advocate of equity in the arts. She is a proud 2017 Lilly Award recipient who grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota and in the mountains of Montana. [jennykoons.com](http://jennykoons.com)

**JASON ARDIZZONE-WEST** (*Set Designer*) is an Emmy award-winning set designer & production designer. Recent projects include *Jesus Christ Superstar* (NBC); *Lana Del Rey* (Arena Tour); *Uncle Vanya* (Old Globe Theater / Hunter Theatre Project); *Good Grief* (The Vineyard Theatre); *Native Gardens*; *The Royale* (The Cleveland Playhouse); *Circus - Wandering City*, *Ethel String Quartet* (BAM Next Wave Festival); *Next to Normal*; *Caroline, Or Change* (Tantrum Theatre); *One Thousand Nights and One Day* (Prospect Theatre); *The Michaels*; *Illyria*; *The Gabriels* (The Public Theater, w/ Susan Hilferty); *Bullets Over Broadway* (National Tour, NETworks Presentations); Adele Live in NYC (Radio City Music Hall, with Es Devlin). Jason has designed events for Cornell, Princeton, Duke, (Herson Group Ltd) and The New 42nd Street. Prior to focusing on set design, Jason was an architect, working with Mitchell Kurtz Architect PC to design theater and cultural arts spaces including: Playwrights Horizons, The Chautauqua Institution's Bratton Theater, & El Teatro Heckscher. Jason received a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University, College of Architecture, Art & Planning, a Masters of Fine Arts from New York University, Department of Design for Stage & Film and is a member of USA 829.

**JEN SCHRIEVER** (*Lighting Designer*) is a NYC based lighting designer whose work has been seen on Broadway and Off, across the US, and internationally. Favorite projects include: *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *The Lifespan of a Fact* and *Eclipsed* on Broadway; *The Soundtrack of America* which opened the McCourt theatre at The Shed in NYC, *A Strange Loop* at Playwrights Horizons, *Angels in America* at Berkeley Rep and operas At The Metropolitan Opera in NYC, English National Opera and The Mariinsky in St. Petersburg Russia. Visit her at [Jenschriever.com](http://Jenschriever.com).

**EMILIO SOSA** (*Costume Designer*) Broadway: *On Your Feet!*, *Motown: The Musical*, *Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (Tony nom.), *Topdog/Underdog*. London: *Motown: The Musical*, *Father Comes Home From the Wars*, *Topdog/Underdog*. Off-Broadway: *By the Way Meet Vera Stark* (Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk nom.), *Venus, Crowns, Trust, Invisible Thread, Romeo and Juliet, Capeman, The Misanthrope, Sex with Strangers*. Regional: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Ruined*, *Señor Discretion Himself* (Helen Hayes nom.), *Witness Uganda*, *Twist* (2011 LA Ovation Award), *Fences*. Radio City Musical Hall Spring Spectaculars, NY Knicks City Dancers, "Project Runway," "Project Runway All Stars," Trustee American Theater Wing. @esosafashion

**CREST FACTOR** (*Sound Designer*) With over 28 years of experience in professional audio, Marcus Ross commands a diverse expertise in all aspects of audio reproduction and reinforcement for live events. He began his interest in live entertainment as a musician and quickly learned that his inquisitive mind and analytical qualities were a great asset as an audio engineer. After touring with bands early in his career, Marcus began to branch out into many different disciplines. He has been monitor engineer for such bands as Slayer and The Black Crowes; mixed front of house for Patti LaBelle; worked as the Audio System Designer and Crew Chief for Van Halen; was Lead Audio for multiple Broadway touring shows ranging from large scale musical comedies such as *The Producers* and *Spamalot* to the one-man shows, such as, *700 Sundays* with Billy Crystal; and most recently has worked as the Resident Designer for Blue Man Productions, overseeing all new projects and installations as well as maintaining the current shows. After more than 20 years in the industry, Marcus returned to higher education and obtained a Master's Certificate in Music Production from Berklee College of Music, while still actively working in the industry. He has maintained various certifications from manufacturers in the industry and, most recently, has become Head of Application Tour Support, US & Canada for L'Acoustics. Marcus oversees design and implementation of audio systems for music, theatre, and corporate events with Tony Pittsley through his company Crest Factor. Tony Pittsley enjoys the technology that is audio reinforcement. He has toured extensively with Broadway shows including *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Billy Elliot*, *Spamalot*, *The Full Monty*, *A Christmas Story* and others. In his off time, he enjoys wood working and spending time with his wife, children, and his dogs Zoe and Xena.

**LUCY MACKINNON** (*Video Designer*) Broadway credits include *The Lifespan of a Fact*, *Six Degrees of Separation* and Deaf West's revival of *Spring Awakening*. Off-Broadway credits include *After the Blast* (Lincoln Center), *The Treasurer* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Yen* (MCC). As a video and projections designer, she has worked with some of the most innovative theater directors on and off Broadway, including Michael Arden, David Cromer, Trip Cullman, Sam Gold, Tina Landau, Craig Lucas, and Lila Neugebauer. As a graphic artist, she has contributed work to educational institutions such as The New York Historical Society, The National Center for Civil and Human Rights and the National Liberty Museum.

## Who's Who in the Cast *continued*

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**PATRICIA MURPHY** (*Blue Man Character Costume*) has worked on the Broadway productions of *Black and Blue*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Lion King*, *Dracula* and *Wicked*, among others. She has worked with many ballet companies, on several movies including the features *Dracula* and *Far From Heaven* and on Bette Midler's *Kiss My Brass* tour. Other credits: *Tick, tick... BOOM!*; *Once Around the City*; *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*; *Bright Lights, Big City*.

**BILL SWARTZ** (*SFX Designer*). Celebrating 18 years with *Blue Man Group*, Bill Swartz currently serves as a Creative Director. While in this role, he founded and continues to run the creative Research and Development Lab for production design elements, including musical instruments, video surfaces, lighting and special effects. For the *Blue Man Group* North American Tour, Swartz has put his unique skillset to work in the role of SFX Designer. A native of Chicago, Swartz began his career as a freelance designer/builder while also making records and touring with his own bands. Since joining the global entertainment phenomenon of *Blue Man Group*, he has opened shows in Germany, Canada, England, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Japan, and Australia, and worked special events as a musician, technical director and production manager, worldwide. Swartz earned his undergraduate degree in Music Performance/Technical Theater from DePauw University and attended Indiana University for post-graduate work in Jazz Studies. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling with his family.

**RICHARD HERRICK** (*Production Stage Manager*) is the Production Stage Manager for the *Blue Man Group* North American Tour marking his 19th *Blue Man Group* production. Herrick first worked for *Blue Man Group* as the resident Production Stage Manager on the London production in 2005. Since then he has served in this same role for the majority their new productions, and has opened *Blue Man Group* shows across Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Additionally, Herrick has served as Production Stage Manager for the German production of *War Horse* and is the Production Stage Manager at Berlin's Friedrichstadt Palast for their 2018 show *Vivid* and their new show opening in 2020. Prior to *Blue Man Group* he was the Stage Manager for *Les Misérables* in the West End, and worked as a Stage Manager for the Scottish Opera for eight years, working on over fifty main house productions. When he is not acting as a freelance Production Stage Manager, working on shows and events throughout the UK and Europe, he resides with his wife and daughter in a small market town, Ossett in West Yorkshire, UK.

**BYRON ESTEP** (*Senior Music Director*). Started playing Chapman Stick in the *Blue Man Group* band in 1994 as part of the "TUBES" show at the Astor Place Theater in New York City. Since then, he has been involved in the opening and direction of many *Blue Man Group* shows throughout the world. He currently works as a Music Director for *Blue Man Productions* and plays both Chapman Stick and Zither in the band. He has also played guitar and/or banjo on numerous recordings outside of *Blue Man Group* and composed several movie and video game soundtracks.

**STACY MYERS** (*Company Manager*) Most recently: Director of Artistic Operations at KCRep. National/

International Tours: *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *American Idiot*, *Shrek*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Chicago*, *Jersey Boys*, *Sweet Charity* and *Rent*. Regional: New York Stage & Film, WVPT, La Jolla Playhouse. Kansas City proud! For HKMKE.

**ANNA K. RAINS** (*Production Stage Manager*). Touring: *The Phantom of the Opera*, *An American in Paris*, *Blue Man Group*. Las Vegas: *Blue Man Group*. Regional: North Carolina Theatre, Juilliard, Virginia Rep. Proud NC State University alum. Love and thanks to Mom, Dad and the dogs at home.

**JENNIE RYAN** (*Line Producer*) Jennie's variety of expertise includes producing, tour management, production finance, touring logistics, stage management, artist management, with extensive touring and international work in India, Europe, United Kingdom, Asia, Australia and Southwest Asia. Jennie has produced shows in the most challenging domestic and international venues.... like active aircraft carriers, arenas, theaters, studios, ballrooms, and tropical beaches. As a Producer for *Blue Man Group*, shows include the *North America Tour Australia Tour*, *Las Vegas Monte Carlo*, *NCL Epic*, *Tokyo*, *Casino Tour*, and multiple corporate events and TV appearances. As Creative Producer Jennie lead an international creative team in developing *Badaling* a theatrical show in Beijing China. Selected other recent tour credits include Chely Wright, Shinedown, Gary Sinise, Jeff Foxworthy, Bill Engvall, NBA trophy tour, Miss Teen, Taylor Hicks, Wilmer Valderrama, *Blue Angels*, *Salute to Troops* (HBO). Jennie resides in New York and has dual US/EU citizenship.

**BENOIT MATHIEU** (*Executive Producer*) serves as the Senior Executive Producer, *Blue Man Group* & Executive Managing Director, *Blue Man Productions*. In this position, Mathieu heads the development and expansion of the *Blue Man Group* franchise into additional global markets, insures coherence across the current resident shows and touring productions, and explores additional opportunities for the *Blue Man Group* brand to connect with consumers. Prior to joining *Blue Man Group* in April 2018, Mathieu was a member of the Cirque du Soleil family for 18 years serving in various roles. These roles include Project Manager, Production Manager for two creations (*Kooza* and *Ovo*), Senior Director of Artistic and Production Services, VP of Costumes & Creative Spaces and, most recently, VP of Creative Development where he led Cirque's Creative R&D arm and seconded the Chief Creative Officer of the Group. In many different capacities, ranging from truck driver to electrician to co-producer, and by leveraging various talents, including technical direction and theatre construction oversight, Mathieu has contributed to productions in Canada's top theatrical spaces, such as Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, Compagnie Jean-Duceppe, L'Opéra de Montréal and Théâtre Beaumont St-Michel in Quebec. Raised in the Great White North (very far north of Montreal), Mathieu contemplated a career in aviation, obtaining his private and glider pilot wings, before identifying his passion for professional theatre. Mathieu received his degree in Theatre Production from the Collège Lionel-Groulx in Quebec and has since spent his entire career in the world of live entertainment. When not working, Mathieu explores the world of culinary wonders with his wife of 27 years, Dany, and dabbles in the art of pizza-



making. The couple have three children and reside in both New York and Montreal.

**SETH WENIG** (*Executive Producer*) has been with NETworks since its inception in 1995. He spearheaded the international tours of *Fosse* starring Ben Vereen and Ruthie Henshall. Seth has produced the Lincoln Center Theater production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* and the National Theatre production of *War Horse*. Together with Cameron Mackintosh, Seth served as Executive Producer for both the U.S. and U.K. tours of the National Theatre's *My Fair Lady*, the 25th Anniversary U.S. Tour of *Les Misérables*, the new *The Phantom of the Opera* tour, *Miss Saigon*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Blue Man Group* and *The Band's Visit*. He is most proud of his greatest productions - Marlo and Camden.

**BLUE MAN GROUP** (*Producer*) is a global entertainment phenomenon, known for its award-winning theatrical productions, iconic characters and multiple creative explorations. *Blue Man Group* performances are euphoric celebrations of human connection through art, music, comedy and non-verbal communication. Since debuting at New York's Astor Place Theatre in 1991, the live show has expanded to additional domestic residencies in Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas and Orlando, an international residency in Berlin, and multiple North American and World tours, reaching more than 35 million people worldwide. *Blue Man Group* is universally appealing to a broad range of age groups and cultural backgrounds, and continually injected with new music, fresh stories, custom instruments and sensory stimulating graphics. *Blue Man Group* is owned and operated by Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group. For more information, please visit [Blueman.com](http://Blueman.com)

**CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP** (*Producer*) is a world leader in live entertainment. On top of producing world-renowned circus arts shows, the Canadian organization brings its creative approach to a large variety of entertainment forms such as multimedia productions, immersive experiences, theme parks and special events. It currently has 4,500 employees from nearly 70 countries. Going beyond its various creations, Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group aims to make a positive impact on people, communities and the planet with its most important tools: creativity and art. For more information about Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group, please visit [CDSentertainmentgroup.com](http://CDSentertainmentgroup.com).

**NETWORKS PRESENTATIONS** (*Producer*) From its inception over 20 years ago, has been an industry leading producer and manager of touring musical theatre productions and remains committed to delivering quality entertainment to audiences worldwide. Having toured over 70 productions internationally, NETworks' current and upcoming touring productions include Cameron Mackintosh's *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Blue Man Group*, *Falsettos*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Once On This Island*, Nickelodeon's *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Waitress*, Cameron Mackintosh's *Miss Saigon* and *The Band's Visit*.

**GENTRY & ASSOCIATES, INC.** (*General Management*) has been managing domestic and international touring productions for more than 20 years. Gentry & Associates has managed more than 70 touring

productions internationally. Current and upcoming productions include Cameron Mackintosh's *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Blue Man Group*, *Falsettos*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Once On This Island*, Nickelodeon's *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Waitress*, Cameron Mackintosh's *Miss Saigon* and *The Band's Visit*.

**BOND THEATRICAL GROUP** (*Tour Booking, Marketing and Publicity Direction*) is a fully independent booking, marketing and publicity company for live entertainment productions. Current tour marketing and booking projects include *Blue Man Group*, *CATS*, *Clueless*, *Girl from the North Country*, *First Date*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Kathleen Turner's Finding My Voice*, *Latin History for Morons*, *An Officer & A Gentleman*, *Once on this Island* and *Spamilton*. Current marketing and publicity projects include *Anastasia*, *The Band's Visit*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Diana*, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Color Purple*, *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and *The Prom*.

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#### STAFF FOR *Blue Man Group North American Tour*

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##### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Benoit Mathieu & Seth Wenig

##### GENERAL MANAGEMENT

##### GENTRY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Gregory Vander Ploeg

Elisabeth Bayer Nicole Gehring Steve Varon  
Pearce Landry-Wegener

##### BLUE MAN PRODUCTIONS

##### OPERATIONS LIASON

Mary Grisolano

##### PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

NETworks Presentations LLC

Jason Juenker

Hector Guivas Evan Rooney Walker White

##### COMPANY MANAGER

Stacy Myers

##### EXCLUSIVE TOUR DIRECTION

##### BOND THEATRICAL GROUP

[bondtheatrical.com](http://bondtheatrical.com)

##### TOUR BOOKING

Temah Higgins Mollie Mann

Wendy Roberts

Brittany Halberstadt Madison St. Amour Evan Millican

##### MARKETING & PUBLICITY DIRECTION

DJ Martin

Marc Viscardi

Nicole Musto Tori Viggiano

Phillip Aleman Nicholas Jaech Meredyth Davis

Jo Manley Trish McKeon

Cyndi Putnam Benjamin Nissen

Associate Director.....Helen Handelman

Associate Scenic Designer.....Zoe Hurwitz

Assistant Scenic Designer.....Anton Volovsek

Production Carpenter.....

Head Carpenter.....Zachary Feivou

Assistant Carpenter.....Austin Phillips

Flyman.....Al Osuna

Associate Costume Designer.....Annie Le

Head Wardrobe.....Kathryn Trantham

Associate Lighting Designer.....Aaron Tacy

Production Electrician.....Justin Petito

# Who's Who in the Cast *continued*

Moving Lights Programmer .....Brad Gray  
Head Electrician .....Meghan Hong  
Assistant Electrician .....Brandi Fucci  
Associate Sound Design .....Anthony Pittsley  
Production Sound Engineer .....Chad Parsley  
Head Audio .....Justice Bigler  
Assistant Audio .....Danny Irwin  
Associate Video Design .....Brian McMullen  
Associate Video Design .....Geordy van Es  
Video Programmer .....Ido Levran  
Assistant Electrician/Video .....Corey Wissig  
Assistant Electrician/Video .....Jada Hutchinson  
Head Props .....Megan Kraft  
Additional Musical  
Instrument Design .....Aron Sanchez  
Assistant Props .....Laura Choate  
Production Props .....Kurtis 'Kash' Rivers  
Production Wardrobe .....Meagan Becker Bellao  
Production Management  
Assistant .....Kyle E. Techentin  
Production Stage Manager .....Anna K. Rains  
Assistant Stage Manager .....Elena Chapman  
Production Assistant .....Kate Carolan  
MIT .....Ben Flint, Nico Salgado

**FOR BLUE MAN PRODUCTIONS FOUNDERS:**  
Chris Wink, Phil Stanton, Matt Goldman

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT**

Senior Vice President, Affiliated Business  
& Head of BMG .....Davide Pisanu  
Executive Managing Director .....Benoit Mathieu  
Executive Assistant  
& Office Manager .....Alice Farrell-Pearlman  
Senior Resident  
General Manager .....Mary Grisolano  
Global Head of Marketing & Sales .....Paul Iaconis  
Senior Director,  
Creation & Production .....Anita Shah  
Assistant Manager,  
Business & Creative Strategy .....Amanda Lenti

**CREATION**

Creative Director .....Michael Dahlen  
Creative Director .....Jon Knight  
Creative Director .....Bill Swartz  
Music Supervisor .....Jeff Turlik  
Manager, Creation .....Allison Grant  
Head of Music  
& Sound Production .....Andrew Schneider  
Supervising Sound Editor .....Rich Phillis

**PRODUCTION**

Project Manager .....Mike Savage  
Associate Manager,  
Production Operations .....Stephanie Usis  
Technical Director .....Michael Zimmerman  
Technical Manager,  
Musical Instruments .....Ben Flint  
Technical Manager,  
Media Studio .....Xander Points-Zollo  
Manager, Show Quality & Training .....Tim Aumiller

**PROJECTS**

Line Producer, NAT .....Jennie Ryan

**MARKETING & SALES**

Director of Marketing .....Leah Tucker  
Director of Public Relations .....Johanna McCabe

Creative Producer,  
Social Content & Strategy .....Hailey Jester  
Marketing Manager .....Danielle Yannetta  
Senior Editor  
& Camera Operator .....Stephen Halton  
Social Coordinator .....Tori Mueller

**SHOW QUALITY**

Senior Music Director .....Byron Estep  
Senior Artistic Director .....David Bray  
Senior Artistic Director .....Randall Jaynes  
Director, Casting & Training .....Tascha Van Auken  
Blue Man Trainer  
& Casting Associate .....Tim Aumiller

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Director, Real Estate  
& Facilities .....Simon Bogigian  
Facilities Engineer .....Joseph Ford  
IT Team Lead .....Tim Zabel  
IT Analyst .....Arisa Kobayashi

**TALENT**

Talent Partner .....Cynthia Harms  
Talent Coordinator .....Keri McFadden

**FOR NETWORKS PRESENTATIONS**

President .....Orin Wolf  
Chief Financial Officer .....Scott W. Jackson  
Chief Operating Officer .....Jennifer Ardizzone-West  
Chief Producing Officer .....Seth Wenig  
Executive Producers .....Charlie Stone,  
Trinity Wheeler

Associate Producer/  
Health and Safety Director .....Emma Downey  
Director of Administration .....Curt Owens  
Executive Assistant  
to the President .....Hannah Rosenthal  
Senior Director of Finance .....John Kinna  
Controller .....Jennifer Gifford  
Director of Tour Accounting .....Laura S. Carey  
Tax Director .....Pat Guerieri  
Associate Tax Accountant .....Kim Ngan Tran  
Senior Director,

Booking and Engagements .....Mary K. Witte  
Director, Booking and Engagements .....Colin Byrne  
Booking and  
Administrative Assistant .....Jenny Wallisch  
Director of Marketing/PR .....Heather Hess  
Senior Director,  
General Management .....Gregory Vander Ploeg  
General Managers .....Elisabeth Bayer, Steve Varon  
Associate General

Manager .....Pearce Landry-Wegener  
General Manager Associate .....Nicole Gehring  
Senior Director,  
Production Management .....Jason Juenker  
Senior Production Manager .....Hector Guivas  
Production Managers .....Evan Rooney,  
Walker White

Music Coordinator .....John Mezzio  
IT Manager .....Tim Pizza  
Office Manager .....Buddy Piccolino  
Office Assistant .....Carol Jewell  
Warehouse Manager .....Brad Korff  
Warehouse Costume  
Manager .....Bobby Maglaughlin



Tax and Financial Consulting, Accounting Services

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**  
**Brian Enverso, Kathleen Thies**

Financial Services and Banking Arrangements by  
**SunTrust Bank**

Insurance Broker Services

**Maury Donnelly and Parr, Inc.**  
**Robert B. Middleton, Sr. and Meghan Coleman**



*Blue Man Group* is presented in L-ISA Hyperreal Sound by L-Acoustics, the world leader in premium professional sound systems for live events. L-ISA is a groundbreaking audio technology which goes beyond traditional systems to offer extremely realistic, ultra-high definition sound. This result is a deeper sense of involvement in the spectacular antics, music and mayhem that is *Blue Man Group*.

#### CREDITS

Scenery built by SCENIC SOLUTIONS Lighting rental provided by CHRISTIE LITES. Video rental provided by WORLD STAGE. Select SFX provided by J&M. Lab equipment and props provided by BMP. Additional writing provided by ELIZABETH BIRKENMEIER. Voiceover Artist: LITHA P JOHNSON.

Official Rubik's Cube provided by RUBIK BRAND LTD.

Billy Bass Fish usage courtesy of GEMMY INDUSTRIES.

Rehearsed at SIR Studios in New York, NY

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Scott Galbraith and the Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR

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#### ATTENTION

Strobe lights and other atmospheric effects will be used during this performance. Please be aware that certain physical elements of the show, including paint and other non-toxic materials, may reach some members of the audience. Audience interaction is also part of this production. Please speak to any staff member if you have any questions about this performance.



The photographing or sound recording of any performance without the written permission of management is prohibited.

A full-page photograph of David Epley as Doktor Kaboom. He is wearing a bright orange lab coat, black motorcycle boots, and goggles. He is standing behind a black metal stand that holds a large, clear plastic water jug. A long, thick stream of white foam is erupting from the top of the jug, reaching up to his head. He has a playful, slightly crazed expression on his face. The background is dark and indistinct.

# How David Epley blended acting and science, to become **DOKTOR KABOOM**

Michael W. Aldrich, *TPAC Arts Writer*

If you combined Bill Nye and Guy Fieri in a lab, then sent him to acting school, you'd get Doktor Kaboom.

With chrome goggles, orange lab coat, motorcycle boots, and spiked hair, the mad scientist not only embraces the ridiculous, he celebrates it.

Doktor Kaboom has been dazzling young minds with interactive, educational, and comical performances for more than a decade — recently performing as part of TPAC's **HOT Season for Young People** for the fifth time this past December.

But the man behind the madness didn't always want to entertain young audiences by making water bottles into rockets and catapulting bananas across the stage.

"It took me 40 years to figure out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," says actor, comedian, and Doktor Kaboom creator David Epley. "But when I found it, I never looked back."

Epley grew up expecting to be a research physicist, a biomedical engineer, a mathematician, an astrophysicist, a chemical engineer, and a marine biologist. So, naturally, he became an actor.

"The stage's calling eventually became too loud to ignore," he says.

After studying to become a chemical engineer at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Epley spent the next two decades performing and directing original comedy at outdoor festivals and street performances.

It was during his 20-year tenure performing on the Renaissance Festival circuit when he learned how to interact with an audience.

"During those shows, I worked with some brilliant minds who taught me how to deal with any type of situation you can encounter," Epley says.

The idea to mix his two passions of science and performing together hit him like a bus one day while working at a festival in Texas, wondering what he was about to do for the upcoming off-season.

Epley reminds students that science is a part of everyday life by using everyday, household items.



"It was about 12 years ago. I had turned 40 and decided I'm going to have a good idea this year," says Epley. "And when I did, instead of talking about it for a few weeks until I got bored talking about it, I followed through."

The character Doktor Kaboom was born. A German physicist who teaches that science is for everyone through a variety of interactive experiments ranging from optical illusions to chemical reactions and a homemade hovercraft.

During shows, Doktor Kaboom creates artificial gravity. During others, he electrocutes a pickle. No two shows are the same.

"Since I'm an actor, I didn't want to just be me on stage," Epley says. "I wanted the character to be larger than life and over the top — so I made him German."

The accent may be fake, but the science is real.

**"Science is like Shakespeare. It's not meant to be read; it's meant to be done."** – David Epley

Students witness a variety of science subjects typically digested via textbook: physics, biomedical engineering, mathematics, astrophysics, chemical engineering, and marine biology.

Epley also reminds students that science is a part of everyday life by using household items such as dish soap, balloons, and trash barrels in his experiments to prove science's accessibility.

"My mission is to remind the world that science is all around us," he says. "It's all



Doktor Kaboom is a German physicist who teaches science is for everyone.  
photo by Martin Albert

around us and it's not difficult. It just takes effort; and that's not the same thing as hard."

But perhaps the most striking moment of his performances is how he empowers children to think well of themselves. He remembers a time when he asked a student volunteer, "you're smart young man, yah?." The student said, "no." Ever since, Epley's made a point of that lesson in his shows.

"That moment floored me," Epley says. "It showed me I had an opportunity to teach science and to empower these kids and show them they are capable."

During his week of performances at TPAC, Epley's voice commanded the attention of nearly 1,000 students staring at him and drove the point home.

"Learn this and never forget it," he told them. "You are smart. Believe it."

[Connect with Michael Aldrich on LinkedIn](#) or [follow him on Twitter @michaelwaldrich](#).



David Epley, also known as Doktor Kaboom, recently did his fifth set of performances for TPAC's HOT Season for Young People.

# Baby Yoda will wait.

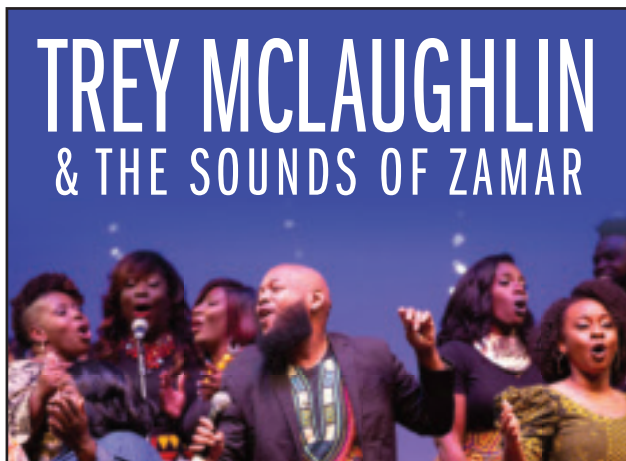
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Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director



FEB 18



Solomon Dumas, photo by Andrew Eccles

FEB 28-29



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Through this intensely physical production, actors from all over the world tell their ancestors' stories in twelve different eras. Woven into a single narrative about escaping an oppressive homeland, they are drawn to the beacon above Ellis Island.

Created by The Actors' Gang  
with Tim Robbins as director.

APR 9-11

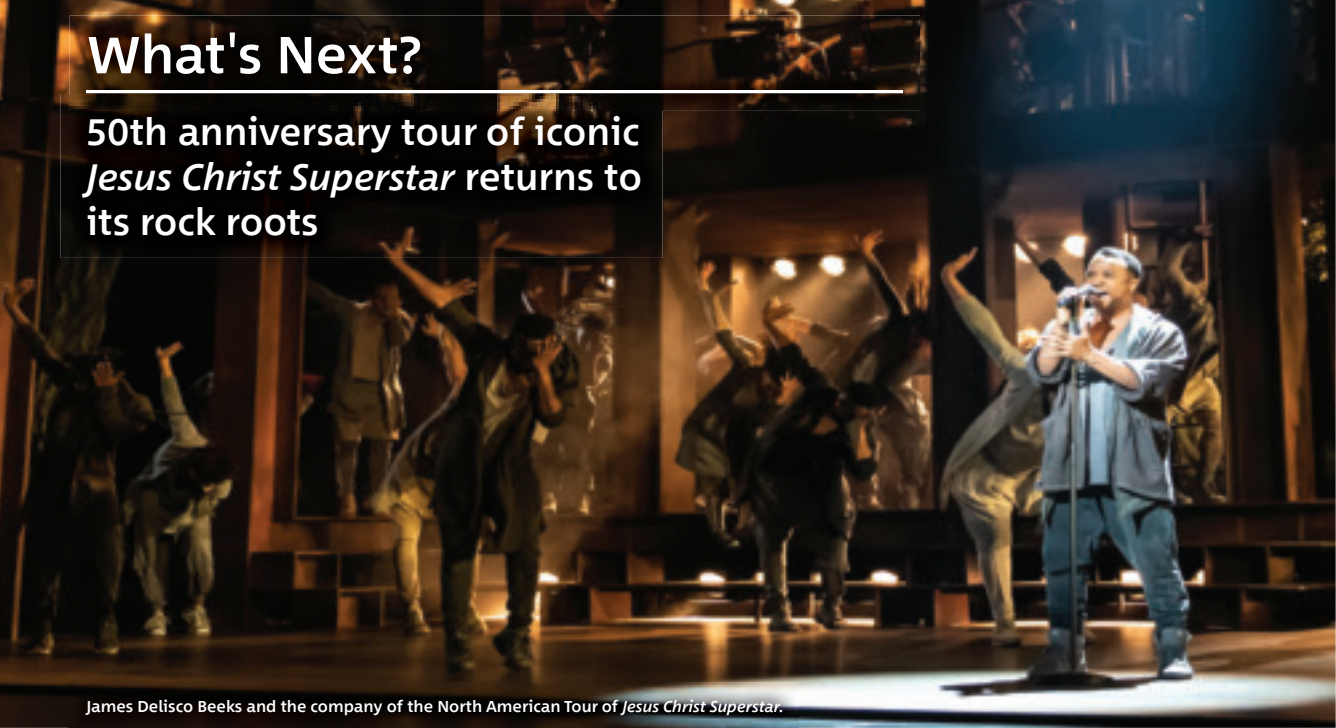
AN EVENING WITH  
C.S. LEWIS

STARRING DAVID PAYNE

MAY 9-10

# What's Next?

50th anniversary tour of iconic *Jesus Christ Superstar* returns to its rock roots



James Delisco Beeks and the company of the North American Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

**"A lush, glorious sound the likes of which you've never heard before. This is not your grandmother's 'Superstar.'"**

- *Chicago Sun-Times*

**F**ollowing critically acclaimed, sold-out engagements in the U.K, the reimaged 50th Anniversary tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* comes to TPAC March 3-8.

Featuring award-winning music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, the North American tour of this iconic musical is directed by Timothy Sheader and cutting-edge choreographer Drew McOnie.

Rounding out the creative team is set and costume design by 2016 Tony Award nominee Tom Scutt, lighting design by Lee Curran, and music supervision by Tom Deering.

*Jesus Christ Superstar* is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas. Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the legendary score includes "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane," and "Superstar."

A proven musical phenomenon with a world-wide fan base, as demonstrated by NBC's *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* which attracted more than 9.6 million viewers and earned the highest ratings in its time period,

*Jesus Christ Superstar* will play more than 50 cities on this tour.

The cast is led by Aaron LaVigne (*Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark*, *RENT*) in the role of Jesus along with James Delisco Beeks (*Kinky Boots*, *Aida*) as Judas, Jenna Rubaii (*Groundhog Day*, *American Idiot*) as Jesus' devoted follower Mary, and Alvin Crawford (*The Lion King*, *Candide*) as Caiaphas.

"We are thrilled to have put together this incredible company," says Sheader. "It's now time for us to plug into the Brown Album and make that music live again on stage. The show will resound with audiences across North America like it was written for us today."

The original 1971 concept album (commonly known as The Brown Album) was named Album of the Year on the Billboard Pop Charts, surpassing albums such as Carole King's *Tapestry* and Janis Joplin's *Pearl*.

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, selling out two consecutive engagements in 2016 and 2017.

The North American tour is produced by Stephen Gabriel and Work Light Productions by arrangement with Really Useful Group Ltd. Casting is by Wojcik/ Seay Casting. The original production was produced by Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

**Get tickets to *Jesus Christ Superstar* at [TPAC.org](http://TPAC.org), by phone at 615-782-4040, or at the TPAC Box Office, 505 Deaderick St., in downtown Nashville.**

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# Warner Elementary seeing benefits as performing arts magnet with TPAC partnership

Michael W. Aldrich *TPAC Arts Writer*

When Warner Elementary School became an arts magnet in 2018, the leaders of the East Nashville school found a willing and able partner in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

Now, TPAC is helping educators introduce a new style of learning for students in one of Tennessee's lowest-performing schools — where 93% are considered economically disadvantaged.

Warner is one of a dozen Metro Nashville Public Schools participating in TPAC's ArtSmart program, an initiative to integrate the arts into classroom learning to benefit both students and teachers.

Led by TPAC teaching artists, these lessons center around a performance from the **HOT Season for Young People** which introduces almost 40,000 school children theatre, dance, music, and more each year.

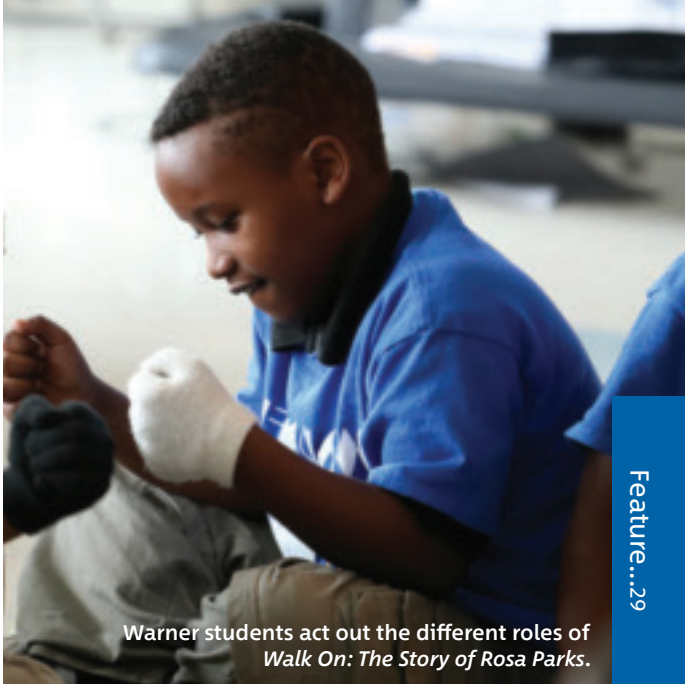
"We believe everything builds through the arts," says Warner principal Dr. Ricki Gibbs. "So often students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds get so drilled down with literacy and numeracy, that schools normally push the arts to the side."

Research supports what most educators already know: arts-based learning improves retention, reduces disciplinary infractions, and boosts students' empathy for others.

At Warner, the number of disciplinary referrals decreased by nearly 75% last year. This fall, the school has had only 12 disciplinary referrals as of the end of November, compared with nearly 900 in the 2017-18 school year.



Teaching artist Alison Brazil leads Warner students in a lesson.



Warner students act out the different roles of *Walk On: The Story of Rosa Parks*.

Feature...29

"We found that through arts integration in our classrooms, our boys and girls are more engaged during instruction and less likely to have disciplinary issues," Dr. Gibbs says.

Also, Warner recently earned top scores for academic growth and demonstrated some of the highest literacy growth for economically disadvantaged students in the state.

ArtSmart fosters a collaborative relationship between teaching artists and teachers, starting with summer institutes in which teachers become learners themselves.

"They've already been teachers, but they get to remind themselves what it's like to learn," says Alison Brazil, a teaching artist who formerly taught Spanish, music, and dance for 10 years and participated in institutes as a teacher.

"I remember they were the only professional development that made any sort of sense to me because it was so experiential and hands on," Brazil says. "There's a light bulb that clicks as you do it yourself. You feel as the learner feels."

When Warner students attended a performance about Rosa Parks this year, Brazil expanded on Park's story through original song lyrics, music, and dance in the classroom.

"We sing, we dance, we move, and the kids get to close the books and engage with these challenging subjects on a deeper level through the arts," Brazil says. "There's something about art that makes deep issues more palatable. It's a common language that levels the playing field to think things we may not normally think."

Ultimately, that's what the partnership is about — to uplift and inspire through a deeper connect with the arts. At schools like Warner, it means that children get to imagine possibilities beyond their neighborhoods.

Reach Michael Aldrich on LinkedIn or follow him on Twitter @michaelwaldrich



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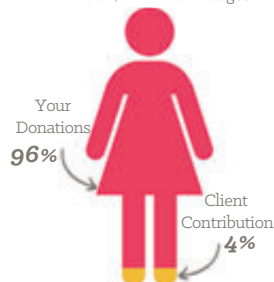
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