

AQUARIUS



# POLLYANNA

THE MUSICAL

BOOK & LYRICS *by* STEVEN GALLAGHER  
MUSIC *by* LINDA BARNETT  
DIRECTED *by* ROBERT MCQUEEN

WORLD PREMIERE  
Dec 6-23, 2023

50<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

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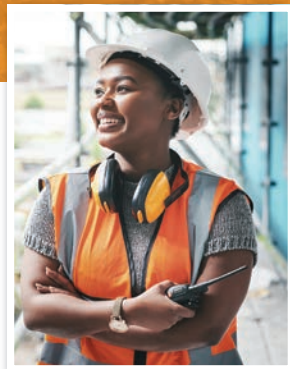
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# WELCOME TO THEATRE AQUARIUS' 50TH SEASON



## WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU HOME

Theatre Aquarius has been a vital part of Hamilton's thriving arts scene for over 50 years. From our humble beginnings, running out of a former bakery on Leeds Street, we have grown into a thriving cultural institution attracting some of Canada's top talent both on-stage and off. **This season is about you** – our valued and dedicated audience members. This season pays homage to our past but also looks ahead to a bright future!

**Jonas and Barry in the Home** brings back one of Canada's most beloved playwrights, Norm Foster. Aquarius has produced many of Norm Foster's works over the past 50 years, so it is fitting to have this show kick off the season.

**Boy Falls from the Sky** tips our hat to one of the preeminent performers in Canada, Jake Epstein, who has held leading roles on Broadway and comes home to share the trials and tribulations of a career in the theatre (musically of course!).

**Pollyanna The Musical** marks a return to the family holiday musical that is a beloved tradition for Hamiltonians. Share in the spirit of the holiday season through the eyes of a little girl who sees the best in everything.

**Uncle Vanya** opened 50 years ago on Broadway, and we are thrilled to bring this critically acclaimed adaptation, starring Stratford's Tom Rooney, to Hamilton audiences.

**Shirley Valentine** was one of our most successful shows in the 1993–94 season, and was the last production directed by Aquarius' founding Artistic Director Peter Mandia before his passing.

**Beautiful Scars** will have its World Premiere at Aquarius to close the season. It has been a joy to work with co-creators Tom Wilson and Shaun Smyth and to watch Tom's life story take shape as a musical. We can't wait for you to experience it on our stage.

While we are honoured to be ushering in the 50th season, we would not be here without the hard work and dedication of those who came before us. Thank you to past leaders, board members, staff and volunteers who have cared for this organization – through both tumultuous and terrific times. We stand on your shoulders and know that this milestone anniversary would not be possible without you!

Thank you to our sponsors, funders and donors – past and present – who have believed and championed the work we do.

Thank you to the artists who have graced our stages both on stage and off. We are so proud of our history of excellent and groundbreaking theatre.

Thank you to our valued audiences who have returned time and time again to support professional theatre in Hamilton. You are the reason we do what we do!

Enjoy the show!

**Kelly Straughan, Executive Director & Mary Francis Moore, Artistic Director**

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**OPERA MASTERCLASS**  
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7 PM



**ELENA HOWARD-SCOTT**  
*Opera*  
**Sunday, October 15**  
2 PM



**WHALE FALL**  
*by Stephen Near*  
*Same Boat Theatre*  
**Oct 27 - Nov 5, 7 PM**



**NORTEÑO**  
*Tango Quintet*  
**Sunday, October 29**  
2 PM



**CARMEN**  
*Flamenco*  
**Sunday, November 12**  
2 PM



**PAYADORA**  
*Tango*  
**Sunday, February 4**  
2 PM



**VALERIE TRYON**  
*Piano*  
**Sunday, February 11**  
2 PM



**VOICES OF THE HARP**  
*Music & Poetry*  
**Sunday, March 3**  
2 PM



**SERENADE TO HUMANITY**  
*Piano Duo*  
**Sunday, April 21**  
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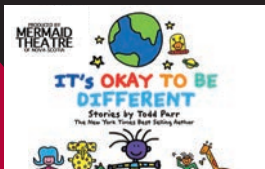
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**Choir! Choir! Choir!**

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## **RBC Artist In Residence: Melissa General**

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**AQUARIUS  
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presents

THE WORLD PREMIERE

# POLLYANNA THE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by Steven Gallagher  
Music by Linda Barnett

Directed by Robert McQueen

Supervising Music Direction and Orchestrations by Mark Camilleri

Choreography by Julie Tomaino

Set and Costume Designs by Cory Sincennes

Sound Design by Brian Kenny

Lighting Design by Jareth Li

December 6–23, 2023

Opening Night – December 8, 2023

Season Sponsor:

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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*Central to our capacity to heal, is our willingness to forgive.*

In 2015 I was invited to join in the development of a musical adaptation of Eleanor H. Porter's beloved novel *Pollyanna*, one of literature's best known children's books.

At the time, it never occurred to any of us on the team that it would be 8 years before we would bring *Pollyanna* to the stage; but then who could have foreseen the global health crisis that would take hold of our world in the late winter of 2020.

*Pollyanna* is a story about home, family and love. It is about forgiveness, redemption and the healing that follows.

Over the course of its narrative *Pollyanna* introduces us to the people of Beldingville, Vermont who for years have lived lonely lives of self-imposed isolation, and who, through the innate wisdom and kindness of a child, grow to become a true community

The proverb that tells us 'good things come to those who wait' describes perfectly the journey that has brought this musical so full of heart and humour, and with a message that is both poignant and timely, to its premiere production at the wonderful Theatre Aquarius.

All of us engaged in creating this production are so proud of this work, and we are so glad you are here.

Welcome and please enjoy.

Robert McQueen

## WRITERS' NOTES

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When Linda handed me a novel about an optimistic orphan named Pollyanna and said, "I think we should write a musical", I was a little skeptical. How could we create a show that would resonate with modern audiences based on a hundred-year-old book? But as I read Pollyanna's story (and cried!) I understood that her message of acceptance and hope is precisely what we need in these turbulent times. As Linda and I wrote (and re-wrote – and re-wrote) our show, we always kept that theme of acceptance at the forefront of our minds. Pollyanna not only sees the best in people, she helps them see the best in themselves and those around them. She is utterly unafraid of the unknown and curious about those who may be different from her.

Pollyanna accepts people for who they are and embraces those differences. It's a simple but powerful philosophy that we hope you carry with you long after you leave the theatre. Linda and I are so grateful to the dozens of Canadian theatre artists who supported us along our journey, and to Theatre Aquarius for helping us share this story with you.

We wish you and your loved ones the safest and happiest of holidays.

Steven Gallagher & Linda Barnett

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Theatre Aquarius is member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engages professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors Equity Association and The Canadian Federation of Musicians as well as designers who are members of the Associated Designers of Canada ADC Local 659.

Theatre Aquarius engages stage technicians supplied by Local 129 and scenic and property artists supplied by Local 828 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists, and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada.



Associated Designers of Canada



# CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

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## CAST

Michelle Bardach .....	Polly
Adam Brazier .....	Pendleton
Joel Cumber .....	Marvin/Dance Captain
Peter Fernandes .....	Frank
Athan Giazitzidis .....	Jimmy Bean
Arinea Hermans .....	Swing
Linda Kash .....	Mrs. Snow
Finn Kirk .....	Children's Chorus/US Jimmy Bean
Ha'Keena Maneso .....	Fannie
Alexa Meixner .....	Children's Chorus/US Pollyanna
Charlotte Moore .....	Widow Benton/Mrs. Grey/US Mrs. Snow
Keith Savage .....	William
Jessica Sherman .....	Miss Pearl/US Polly
Adam Stevenson .....	Reverend Miller/Conductor/Doctor/US Pendleton
Emily Watt .....	Pollyanna
Jenny Weisz .....	Millie/US Nancy
Kelsey Verzotti .....	Nancy

## CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Miles Avery, Sofie Greenspoon, Henry Tiller, Shaadee Vahdat

## CREATIVE TEAM

Steven Gallagher .....	Book & Lyrics
Linda Barnett .....	Composer
Robert McQueen .....	Director
Mark Camilleri .....	Supervising Music Director/Orchestrator
Cory Sincennes .....	Set & Costume Designer
Brian Kenny .....	Sound Designer
Julie Tomaino .....	Choreographer
Jareth Li .....	Lighting Designer
Kaylee Harwood .....	Directing Associate
Michael Vieira .....	Associate Music Director
Kevin Bowers .....	Stage Manager
Jasmyne Leisemer .....	Assistant Stage Manager
Josephine Ho .....	Assistant Stage Manager
Delaney Small .....	Apprentice Stage Manager
Taran Kim .....	Child Supervisor
Hannah Ottman .....	Child Supervisor
Pamela Wood .....	Child Supervisor

Natalie Bartello .....	Consulting Producer, Yonge Street Theatricals
Tess Capern .....	Assistant Producer, Yonge Street Theatricals

## MUSICIANS

Mark Camilleri .....	Supervising Music Director/Orchestrator
Michael Vieira .....	Associate Music Director/Keyboard

Roslyn Black .....	Horn
Jamie Drake .....	Percussion
Garrett Hack .....	Woodwinds
Emily Hau .....	Violin
Will Jarvis .....	Bass
Jonathan Tortolano .....	Cello
Mike Wark .....	Saxophone and Woodwinds

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

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## ACT 1

I Look Up To The Sky .....	<i>Pollyanna</i>
The Beldingville Town Song .....	<i>Townsfolk</i>
Already Feels Like Home .....	<i>Pollyanna</i>
I Can Be Glad .....	<i>Pollyanna, Nancy</i>
Not Part of The Plan .....	<i>Polly</i>
Woe Is Poor Old Me .....	<i>Mrs. Snow, Pollyanna</i>
Dance All Your Troubles Away .....	<i>William, Nancy</i>
Pollyanna's Lesson .....	<i>Pollyanna</i>
Lucky Day .....	<i>Miss Pearl, Miss Fannie, Townsfolk</i>
If Somebody Gives Me A Chance .....	<i>Pollyanna, Jimmy Bean</i>
Where Do I Go From Here .....	<i>Polly, Pollyanna</i>

## ACT 2

I Look Up to The Sky (Reprise) .....	<i>Pollyanna</i>
Never Give Up .....	<i>Frank, Nancy, Townsfolk</i>
It's A Miracle .....	<i>Reverend and Townsfolk</i>
Prisms .....	<i>Pendleton</i>
Extraordinary Child .....	<i>Polly</i>
When Somebody Loves You .....	<i>Pollyanna</i>
If Somebody Gives Me A Chance (Reprise) .....	<i>Pollyanna, Jimmy Bean, Pendleton</i>
The Game .....	<i>Townsfolk, Polly</i>
I Promise .....	<i>Polly, Pollyanna</i>
Finale .....	<i>Townsfolk</i>

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## OUR COMMITMENT TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Theatre Aquarius is located on the territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek, and the Between the Lakes Purchase, between the Crown and the Mississaugas to care and share for the lands around the Great Lakes.

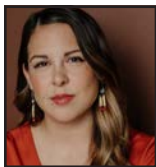
Theatre Aquarius is committed to working towards truth and reconciliation in the arts community by being intentional about the stories we tell and about who is telling those stories.

Following the run of each production in our 50th Season, Theatre Aquarius will be making a donation to an agency or organization in the region that directly supports the members of the indigenous community through their programs and services.

We encourage you to learn more about Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg at [niwasa.ca](http://niwasa.ca) and consider joining us in making a gift to support their work.



# CAST



**Michelle Bardach**  
**Polly**

Michelle Bardach is a Coast Salish Indigenous performer from the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). She holds a Bachelor of Performing Arts from Capilano University. *Pollyanna* is the third Canadian musical world premiere Michelle has originated a role in, the first two being *Maggie* (Aquarius/Charlottetown) and *Tell Tale Harbour* (Charlottetown). Other theatre credits include *Belle in Beauty and the Beast* and *Sophie in Mamma Mia* (Arts Club), *Eponine in Les Miserables* (Chemainus Theatre), *Miss Stacey in Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown) and *Jovie in Elf* (Grand Theatre). Michelle performs with two Indigenous music groups, *M'Girl* and *Tillicum Shantie*, and does voiceover for audiobooks, commercials and animation. She voices multiple characters on *Spirit Rangers* (Netflix), and *Barbie* web shorts (Mattel). For tv/film, she appeared in *Motherland: Fort Salem* (Freeform), *Dancing Through Christmas* (Lifetime), and *Borderline* (Orca Cove). Next up, Michelle will be making her Stratford Festival debut in *Something Rotten and The Diviners*. Instagram: michyb123



**Adam Brazier**  
**Pendleton**

Adam is a Dora winning actor and has been nominated twice as a director and once as a producer. At Theatre Aquarius he appeared on stage in *The Miracle Worker*. His other theatre credits include: *Gabriel in Evangeline* (Charlottetown Festival); *Pilot in The Little Prince*, *Aldopho in The Drowsy Chaperone* (Theatre Calgary); *Frank in The Rocky Horror Show* (CanStage); *Kafee in A Few Good Men* (Neptune); *Butch in The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Birdland); *Walter in The Woman in White* (Broadway); *Rapunzel Prince in Into The Woods* (Broadway); *Dr. Bernardo in The Likes of Us* (West End); *Joey in Pal Joey* (Shaw Fest); and *Padre in Man of LaMancha* (Stratford Fest). Adam wishes to say a big thank you to the whole CCOA team for "letting me off the island to play."



**Joel Cumber**  
**Marvin/Dance Captain**

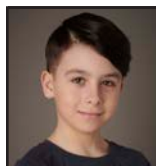
Joel is an actor, singer, and pop culture enthusiast based in Toronto, Ontario. He appeared in *Freaky Friday* at Theatre Aquarius. Joel's past theatre credits include: *Kelly v. Kelly* (Musical Stage - CanStage);

*Sweeney Todd* (TIFT - Buenos Aires, Argentina); *Into the Woods* (YES Theatre - STC); *Ride the Cyclone* (Tweed & Company); *Rumspingra Break!* (Now titled *GROW*, Next Stage 2018). Joel was nominated for a Dora Award in 2020 as a featured performer for *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (YPT). He is a graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance Program, class of 2017. Joel has performed in numerous concerts, cabarets, and workshops, and was named one of the Toronto Fringe Festivals 15 Artists to Watch in 2019. Thank you to the TH team, and the *Pollyanna* team! Enjoy the show!



**Peter Fernandes**  
**Frank**

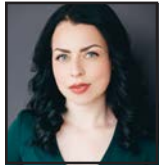
Peter is making his Theatre Aquarius debut. He is an award-winning theatre creator with a long list of credits that include: *The Master Plan* (Crow's) *Kelly v. Kelly* (Musical Stage), *Fifteen Dogs* (Crow's), *Almost a Full Moon*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Damn Yankees*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Gatsby's Jazz/Sonny's Blues*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Russian Play*, *Brigadoon* (Shaw), *Rose*, *Father Comes Home From the Wars*, *Alligator Pie*, *Incident at Vichy*, *The Just*, *Marat/Sade*, *Dybbuk*, *Spoon River*, *Tartuffe*, *Crucible*, *Idiot's Delight* (Soulpepper), *Vietgone* (RMTCC), *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love and Information*, *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear* (Canadian Stage), *Jerusalem* (Outside the March/Company), *Charlie Brown* (MTYP), *Onegin* (NAC/Musical Stage), and *Passing Strange* (Musical Stage/Obsidian). FILM/TV: *21 Black Futures*, *Pretty Hard Cases*, *Odd Squad*. Peter has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Alberta and trained at the Soulpepper Academy. He was recently named one of the inaugural recipients of the Philip Akin Black Shoulders Legacy Award.



**Athan Giazitidis**  
**Jimmy Bean**

*Pollyanna The Musical* is Athan's professional stage debut and his first time performing at Theatre Aquarius! He has performed in a number of local amateur theatre productions including: *Mary Poppins* (as Michael Banks), and in the ensembles of *Seussical The Musical*, *Polar Express*, *Aladdin*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Athan has appeared on Film/TV in *The Accused* (Fox) and has many animation credits including: *Elinor Wonders Why* (PBS Kids), *Mittens & Pants* (CBC Gem), *Vida The Vet* (Threehouse/StackTV), *PJ Masks* (Hasbro/Disney+), *Xavier Riddle And The Secret Museum* (PBS), *Blue's Clues & You* (Nickelodeon). Athan is currently in Grade 5 and lives in Toronto, Ontario. A bit of a sports-nut, Athan

enjoys golf, tennis, basketball and skateboarding and plays soccer on a rep team. He is thrilled to be part of this incredible cast and crew. He sends his love and thanks to his family, especially his mom, dad, and older sister. He is truly grateful for the support of his friends and teachers. He sends a very special thank you to Sandie and Yanick for every opportunity and endless support!



**Arinea Hermans**  
**Swing**

Arinea is beyond happy to be making her Theatre Aquarius debut where she attended her first theatre camp as a kid. She is a graduate of Sheridan College's

Bachelor of Music Theatre Program and has gone on to appear in a number of productions across the country including: *Cabaret* (Ovation Productions); *Murder at Ackerton Manor* (Tweed & Co.); *Elvis Has Left the Building* (Stage West Calgary); *Into the Woods* (Sudbury Theatre Centre/YES Theatre); *Grow* (Grand Theatre); *Obeah Opera* (Luminato Festival); *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Violet* (YES Theatre); *UnCovered* (The Musical Stage Co.); *A Little Night Music* (Gateway Theatre). She is a two-time Dora Award nominated actor for *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and *Seussical* (Young People's Theatre). She sends her love and thanks to Steven Gallagher.



**Linda Kash**  
**Mrs. Snow**

Linda Kash began her career at the Second City Theatre in Toronto, where she performed, directed, and conducted workshops. She has appeared in and

directed a number of plays, films, and television shows throughout Canada, the U.S., Europe, Russia, and New Zealand. Most recently, she performed in *Casey and Diana* for The Stratford Festival which will remount in 2024 at Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto. In 2008, Linda co-founded a Performing Arts School called PAPA for kids and teens. In 2019 Linda co-created a production called *klusterfork*. Linda is best known as The Philadelphia Cream Cheese Angel (a successful campaign which ran over 26 years) but her proudest work to date, by far, is her fabulous, blended family.



**Finn Kirk**  
**Children's Chorus/  
US Jimmy Bean**

This is Finn's very first appearance in a Theatre Aquarius production! Normally you might see him on the volleyball court,

the basketball court, at the rink or in the pool

playing water polo, but in the words of Troy Bolton, "this could be the start of something new!" Finn wants to thank all of his teachers in HWDSB (Memorial, A.M.C and Ballard) who always encouraged him, his Sunday school teachers who put him on stage every Christmas in the annual musical, his sisters who forced him to watch endless episodes of Veggie Tales and Disney movies on long road trips, and his parents and both sets of grandparents whose homes have always been full of music.



**Ha'Keena Maneso**  
**Fannie**

As someone who loved the Pollyanna stories growing up, Ha'Keena is excited to be making her Theatre Aquarius debut!

Her previous theatre credits include: Drayton Entertainment – *Beautiful: A Carole King Musical* (Shirelle/Ensemble), Tweed and Coponay – *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (Brother), Stephenville Theatre Festival – 9 to 5 (Kathy) St. Lawrence College – *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Magenta), *Pippin* (Leading Player), *Apothecary* (Lady), *Cats* (Bombalurina). Ha'Keena wants to thank the cast and creative team for all the theatre magic and her friends and family for all of their support!



**Alexa Meixner**  
**Children's Chorus/  
US Pollyanna**

Alexa is thrilled to be making her professional theatre debut in *Pollyanna The Musical!* This will be her first time performing at

Theatre Aquarius and she is so thankful for the opportunity to work with such incredible actors and crew.

She is a trained dancer in ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop and has performed at the Harlem Globetrotter's Halftime Show and Hamilton Tiger-Cats Halftime Show with her Canadian Dance Company – Burlington crew. Alexa is also a pianist and a singer and has performed at the Oakville Vocal Arts Festival. Last year, she was a scholarship recipient at the 96th Annual Peel Music Festival and performed at the Rose Theatre in Brampton.

She loves to paint, travel and is learning to speak Spanish. Alexa is in Grade 4 and lives in Oakville, Ontario.

A special shout out to her beloved family and friends, as well as Natalie Spurrell, her vocal teacher, and her agent Shari Quallenberg.



**Charlotte Moore**  
**Widow Benton/Mrs. Grey/  
 US Mrs. Snow**

Charlotte is celebrating over 40 years in the biz. Aquarius audiences will remember Charlotte in *White Christmas*, *Christmas*

*Carol*, *Mary Poppins*, *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change*, and her one-woman show *Friends Of Mine: Songs From Canadian Musicals*. She has appeared on the Mirvish stages in *Hairspray*, *Fantine in Les Misérables*, *Auntie Em in The Wizard of Oz* (Toronto and Nat'l tours). She has performed for many seasons with the Shaw Festival and The Charlottetown Festival and at theatres like the Grand Theatre, Drayton Entertainment and many others. Charlotte is a Dora Award Winner 1990 (*The Rocky Horror Show*), and was nominated in 2020 (*Sunday In The Park With George*). She has three solo albums: *Friends of Mine – Songs From Canadian Musicals*, *Long Road Back* (all original material), and *Some Comfort Here* (covid covers) with Mark Camilleri.



**Keith Savage**  
**William**

Keith has previously appeared at Theatre Aquarius as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* and as Mr. Sowerberry in *Oliver*. His Broadway credits include: *Little*

*Johnny Jones*, *Take Me Along*, *Teddy and Alice* and has performed in the U.S. National Tours of *Crazy For You* (Jimmy), *Show Boat* (Frank Schultz) for which he received nominations for L.A. Ovation Award, Vancouver Jessie Award as Best Featured Actor in a Musical. Other selected theatre credits include: Admiral Boom in *Mary Poppins* (Citadel, Theatre Calgary), Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* (Grand Theatre), Roger DeBris in *The Producers* (Neptune Theatre), William Featherstone in *How The Other Half Loves*, Robert in *Boeing, Boeing* (Drayton), Jonas in *Jonas and Barry in the Home* (VPP). TV and movie fans would have seen Keith in *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *Good Witch* (Hallmark), *The Boys* (Prime).



**Jessica Sherman**  
**Miss Pearl/US Polly**

Toronto-born, Jessica studied singing at UWO before moving to England to study acting at RCSSD. UK-based credits include *Rock 'n' Roll* (West End),

*Midsummer Night's Dream* (Japan), *Batman Live* (World Tour), *Lend Me A Tenor* (Vienna), *John and Jen* (Guildford), *The Stationmaster* (Tristan Bates), *The Sound of Music* (Tour). Since returning she was honoured to be the first international Heidi in Mirvish's *Dear Evan Hansen*, winning a Critic's Choice

award, and later joined the First National Tour. Other Canadian credits include *Kelly v. Kelly* (Musical Stage Co/Canadian Stage), *Rumspingie Break – now GROW* (Toronto), *The Last Party* and *The Preposterous Predicament Of Polly Peel* (Toronto), and *Angel Street* (Perth). Jessica sends a huge thanks to her family, here and not, 3G and the UKs, and MR.



**Adam Stevenson**  
**Reverend Miller/Conductor/  
 Doctor/US Pendleton**

After a blockbuster tour of Theatre Aquarius' production of *Maggie* across Atlantic Canada, Adam is pleased to be back

home. His most recent credits are *Maggie* (Theatre Aquarius, Charlottetown Festival), *Play That Goes Wrong* (Charlottetown Festival), *Jafar in Disney's Broadway Tour of Aladdin*, *The Monster in Young Frankenstein*, *Spamalot*, *California Dreaming*, *Canadian Explosion* (Stage West), *Les Misérables* (Drayton Festival) *Ring of Fire*, *Home for the Holidays*, *Sound of Music*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Tommy*, *Forever Plaid*, *Evita*, *Pippin* (Theatre Aquarius), *Flair Tidings* (Neptune Theatre, Magnus Theatre) *The Wedding Singer* (Mayfield Theatre), *Race Day* (Lighthouse Festival) *Robin Hood* (Elgin Theatre). Adam is an Aquarius Theatre School alumni and is proud to call Hamilton home. He sends special thanks to his family Kate, Sam and Frankie.



**Kelsey Verzotti**  
**Nancy**

Kelsey is making her Theatre Aquarius debut. She has performed across the country and in 2022, she made history as the first Asian actress to play

Anne Shirley in the historic production of *Anne of Green Gables* at the Charlottetown Festival. Some of Kelsey's other theatre credits include: *Bittergirl* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Kelly v. Kelly* (Canadian Stage/Musical Stage Company), *Life After* (Canadian Stage/Musical Stage Company/Yonge Street Theatricals), *Gaslight* (Vertigo Theatre); *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown Festival); *A Christmas Carol* (Shaw Festival); *The Antipodes* (Coal Mine); *Into the Woods* (Talk is Free Theatre); *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Under the Stairs* (YPT); *Mary and Max* (Theatre Calgary); *Ai Yah Sweet and Sour Secrets* (Lunchbox Theatre).

Kelsey is grateful to be part of the world premiere of *Pollyanna The Musical* and sends her love to her parents and puppies!



**Emily Watt**  
**Pollyanna**

Emily Watt is honoured to bring the character of Pollyanna to life and be a part of this world premiere at Theatre Aquarius. She loves singing and dancing and recently finished a run as the Butler in Mirvish's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto. At only 11 years old, Emily has already amassed a long list of Film & TV credits. Her favourite roles include Tiff in *Builder Brothers Dream Factory* (Animation), Ellie on Hulu's *Holly Hobbie*, Emma in Hallmark's *Christmas in Toyland* and her first TIFF premiere as Dawn in *The End of Sex*. Special thanks to her friends and family as well as her voice teacher Bracken Burns, and agent Shari Quallenberg.



**Henry Tiller**

Henry Tiller is excited to be joining Theatre Aquarius for his debut performance with the company. Henry is passionate about musical theatre & drama and has enjoyed being on stage over the last few years in the following productions: *Pirates!* (Bruce T Lindley), *Walt's World* (Burlington Student Theatre), *Aladdin* (BST), *The Little Mermaid* (BST), *Addams Family* (BST) and *Spring Salute!* (BST).

Henry is a recording artist for Full Voice Music and has enjoyed singing on their upcoming release. (2024) Each year Henry competes in vocal festivals across the province and has been invited to sing at Ontario Provincials 2019 – 2023. In his spare time, he loves to play hockey and hang out with friends. He is grateful for your patronage and for making this an experience of a lifetime!



**Jenny Weisz**  
**Millie/US Nancy**

Jenny is thrilled to be back at Theatre Aquarius! Her previous theatre credits include *Grow* (Grand Theatre), *Escape to Margaritaville* (Theatre Calgary), *Perfect Wedding* (TIP), *9 to 5* (Capitol Port Hope), *Freaky Friday* (Theatre Aquarius), *Mamma Mia* (Stage West), *There Goes the Bride* (Stage West), *Into the Woods* (Neptune Theatre), *Shrek* (Globe Theatre), *Annie* (YPT), *Anne and Gilbert* (The Guild), *I Love You, You're Perfect* (Gravenhurst Opera House), *The Book of Everything* (Magnus Theatre), Assistant Director for *Rose* (Soulpepper), Assistant Director for *Marvellous Wonderettes* (GOP). Film and TV credits include *The Boys* (Prime), *Mrs. America* (FX), *Mouthpiece* (CBC), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), and *Heroes Reborn* (NBC).



**Miles Avery**

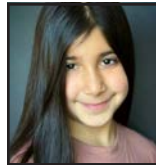
Miles Avery proudly joins the cast of *Pollyanna* in the children's ensemble. His love of acting and musical theatre began at the age of 4 putting on plays in his Grandma's basement with his siblings. Since then, Miles has participated in several musical performances, acting programs and theatre productions in Burlington, Hamilton and Waterloo. He most recently appeared as the Tin Man in Theatre Aquarius' show program of the *Emerald City*. He also enjoys dancing, drawing, movies and animation. Miles is extremely grateful for the support of his family and is excited to continue his journey in the theatre.

## CHILDREN'S CHORUS



**Sofie Greenspoon**

Sofie is excited to make her professional theatre debut in *Pollyanna the Musical*. Sofie's credits include Fagin's Gang in *Oliver!* and *Glee Pop Concert* at Theatre Ancaster where she will be joining this year's cast of *Pirates of Penzance Jr.* She would like to thank the team at the Aquarius Theatre School for supporting her. Sofie loves to sing, play piano and ukulele and swim. Love and a big thank you to her family, friends, teachers, the Hamilton community, and the entire *Pollyanna* team.



**Shaadee Vahdat**

Shaadee Vahdat is 11 years old and in grade 6. She loves singing, acting, playing piano, dancing and sports such as soccer and gymnastics. She is a trained dancer in ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop. She has been a part of multiple theatre productions such as *Suessical The Musical*, *Grease The Musical* and *Descendants The Musical*. She was also a kid spokesperson in a Book Depot Commercial. Shaadee is so excited to work with all the talented actors and have this amazing experience being part of the Children's Chorus in The World Premier of *Pollyanna the Musical*.

# CREATIVE TEAM

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**Linda Barnett**  
**Composer**

Linda, a former teacher, is passionate about creating high-quality, accessible theatre for family audiences. An accomplished composer and lyricist, she founded the children's theatre company Stage Kids, which provided an after school musical theatre education for youth across Metropolitan Toronto for over 17 years and entertained over a million young people and their families. Stage Kids produced many of Linda's original musicals, including *Time to Be Me*, which did a twelve-week tour of Ontario, sponsored by The Provincial Government. Since then, some of Linda's musicals have been produced in schools around the world. Her environmental musical, *Come Save Today*, was produced at the Shubert Theater in New Haven, CT as part of The Summer Academy. Linda also received a Dora nomination for her show *The Player Principal*.

*Pollyanna the Musical* was shortlisted for the Best New Musical at the 2016 Tom Hendry Awards for the Playwrights Guild of Canada and was featured at the Page to Stage Festival in London UK and had a workshop presentation at The Charlottetown Festival.



**Kevin Bowers**  
**Stage Manager**

Kevin Bowers is pleased to be a part of *Pollyanna The Musical*, and is delighted to be returning to Theatre Aquarius after the successful run of *The Gig* last season. During his 40+ year career in theatre, Kevin has been fortunate to work alongside a diverse group of incredibly talented artists in all areas of performing arts. Previous shows at Theatre Aquarius include *Salt Baby* and *The Gig*. For Mirvish Productions Kevin has been the stage manager for *In Dreams*, *Piaf/Dietrich*, *Kinky Boots*, *Once*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *Oliver!* *Racing Demon*, *Crazy for You*, *The Good Times Are Killing Me* as well as the Canadian national tour of *Les Miserables*. For Koerner Hall: *A Little Night Music*, *Follies*, *All is Love*. His opera credits include *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Aida*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La Boheme*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Magic Flute*, *Tosca* and *Eugene Onegin*. Other favourite credits include *Chicago*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Forever Plaid*, *Obeah Opera*, *Chicago*, *Gigi*, *South Pacific*, *Mame*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Peter Pan* and *Carousel*. Kevin holds a Masters degree from the University of Essex in England specializing in British theatre history.



**Mark Camilleri**  
**Supervising Music Director/  
Orchestrator**

Mark has Music Directed all over the world including the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala, Kurt Browning Holiday Festival on Ice, The Canadian Tenors PBS Special, and has shared the stage with Andrea Bocelli, Celine Dion, Oprah Winfrey, Sting, Sheryl Crow, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Sarah McLachlan, David Foster, Herbie Hancock, and most major orchestras across North America. Theatre credits include *To Life*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Toxic Avenger*, *Mamma Mia!*, *High School Musical*, and *Hair*. Mark also owns and operates IMAGINE Sound Studios and his Recording/Producer credits include his own CD entitled *Mark Camilleri* and the *CT Project* as well as working with Jeff Healey, Quartetto Gelato, Marvin Hamlisch, Alan Thicke, Penguin Random House, History Channel and CBC



**Steven Gallagher**  
**Book & Lyrics**

Steven is a writer, director, and actor based in Hamilton. His plays include *Murder at Acker-ton Manor* (Tweed and Company Theatre), *Stealing Sam* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *Blackout*, written with Anton Lipovetsky (The Musical Stage Company, Canadian Stage Co, NAMT festival NYC), *Drama 101*, written with Kevin Wong, has been produced across Ontario, and *The Last Party* written with Nicky Phillips. Steven's directing credits include *Birthday Balloon* (RCA Theatre, St John's, NL), *Fully Committed*, starring Gavin Crawford (Grand Theatre), *Myth of The Ostrich*, and *Rumspingra Break* (Next Stage Festival) and *Living With Shakespeare* (Driftwood Theatre). Theatre Aquarius audiences will recognize Steven from his roles in *The Sound Of Music* and *The Gig*.



**Kaylee Harwood**  
**Directing Associate**

Kaylee is a west-coast raised, Dora-nominated director, performer, and educator based in Toronto. She recently directed *UnCovered: Fleetwood Mac & The Eagles*, *Retold* (Musical Stage Company - Dora Nomination), *In Studio* (Theatre Sheridan), *The Dressing Room* (miniseries), and assisted on *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage) and *Controlled Damage* (The Grand). She last appeared at Theatre Aquarius in *Serving Elizabeth*. Kaylee has performed on Broadway, several National Tours, at Radio City Music Hall, the Stratford & Shaw Festivals, Citadel, Musical Stage, Arts Club, La Jolla Playhouse, Niagara

Symphony Orchestra, and on *Star Trek, Workin' Moms, Mayday, Christmas Movie Magic, Reign, Good Witch, America's Got Talent* and *The Tony Awards*. Two seasons, RBC Apprentice Director & Kathleen C. Freeman Leadership Development Fund Recipient (Musical Stage Company). Thanks to Robert, TH and DPR.



**Josephine Ho**  
**Assistant Stage Manager**

Josephine has been an Equity Stage Manager for over 15 years. At Theatre Aquarius, favourites include: *The Extinction Therapist, The Hours That Remain, Ring of Fire* and *Jack of Diamonds* and as Assistant Stage Manager for *Cabaret, The Full Monty* and *Sexual*. Other favourites include: Stage Manager for *Dear John Deere* (Blyth & Lighthouse Festival Theatres), *Bed & Breakfast, Rum Runners*, (Lighthouse), *Leading Ladies* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), *Future Folks* (Sulong Theatre Collective/Theatre Passe Muraille); and ASM for *Race Day* (Lighthouse). Josephine teaches the Stage Management Class at Brock University and hopes some of them go on to become amazing SMs! Thanks to Phil and everyone who comes out to watch all my shows (even though I'm never seen!)



**Brian Kenny**  
**Sound Designer**

Brian is a designer for theatre from Mt. Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador and is a graduate from The National Theatre School of Canada and Sheridan College. Selected credits include: *Fall On Your Knees* (Vita Brevis Arts), *Jersey Boys* (Citadel Theatre), *Come From Away* in concert (Mirvish, Marquis Ent), *Billy Elliott, The Rocky Horror Show, The Music Man, Little Shop of Horrors* (Stratford Festival), *Elf, Grow, Mary Poppins* (The Grand Theatre), *Everybody Just C@lm The F#ck Down, Between Breaths, The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland). Brian is a board member of the IATSE Local 659, The Associated Designers of Canada.



**Jasmyne Leisemer**  
**Assistant Stage Manager**

Jasmyne has worked at Theatre Aquarius on the following productions: *Jonas And Barry In The Home, The Extinction Therapist, A Hamilton Holiday, Serving Elizabeth, Ring of Fire, Pat and Skee, Home for the Holidays, Sweat, Elf: The Musical* and *Cabaret*. Other theatre credits include: *Retold* (Musical Stage Company), *Sweet Delilah Swim Club, Kinky Boots,*

*Grease, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, West Side Story* (Drayton Entertainment) *Return to Grace* (RGA Media - Fallsview Casino). Her film credits include *Flipping for Christmas* (Cable TV), *Most Dangerous Game Season 2* (CBS), *Reacher* (Amazon). Jasmyne is a graduate of Sheridan College's Technical Theatre Program. Thank you for supporting live theatre, enjoy the show!



**Jareth Li**  
**Lighting Designer**

Born in Singapore, Jareth is a stage designer based in Toronto by way of Calgary. He has a love for new work that examines identity politics, culture, and heritage. Jareth was the Lighting Designer for Theatre Aquarius' production of *The Hours That Remain*. Other select credits include: *Prince Caspian* (Shaw Festival); *Jersey Boys, Ring of Fire* (Citadel Theatre); *Every Little Nookie* (Stratford Festival); *Peter's Final Flight* (Ross Petty Productions); *Controlled Damage* (Grand Theatre); *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Home Project, The Wolves, Casimir and Caroline, Punk Rock* (The Howland Company); *Vierge, Prairie Nurse* (Factory Theatre); *Kickstart 2023* (CanAsian Dance/Tangente). Aside from his artistic practice, Jareth also teaches at York University. Member of IATSE 659, The Associated Designers of Canada.



**Robert McQueen**  
**Director**

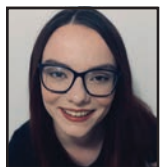
Director, dramaturge and educator, Robert has worked across the United States, Canada and internationally. Robert's recent theatre production includes developing and directing *Boy Falls From The Sky*, which had a run at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto and for which he was nominated for Outstanding Direction at the 2022 Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Some of Robert's additional directing credits include *Caroline or Change*, (2020 Dora Mavor Moore nomination), *Fun Home* (2018 Toronto Theatre Critics Association award for Outstanding Direction, and a Dora Mavor Moore nomination), *Life After* (2018 Outstanding Direction Award, Dora Mavor Moore Awards), *Forest Boy* (2017 Outstanding Direction nomination, New York Festival of New Musicals. In commercial theatre, Robert was the Associate Director for the Broadway and national touring productions of *Mamma Mia!* and recently directed the Mexico City, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires productions. Additionally, he was Associate to Harold Prince for the national tour of *Showboat*. Robert has taught theatre masterclasses for The Shanghai Academy, Arte Studio, Mexico City, HB Studio, New York, The Royal Conservatoire, Glasgow and across Canada. In

September 2022 Robert's first written work for the theatre, a solo piece called *The Real Poems*, was produced by the Here For Now Theatre in Stratford. Robert performed the work with musician and composer Laura Burton.



**Cory Sincennes**  
**Set & Costume Designer**

Cory is an award-winning designer, currently residing in Charlottetown, PEI. His designs have received both national and international recognition having worked throughout Canada, Europe, and Russia. He holds an MFA in Theatre Design from the University of Alberta. His recent work includes: *Gypsy*; *Prince Caspian*, *Damn Yankees* (Shaw Festival); *Anne of Green Gables*, *Evangeline*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Mamma Mia* (Charlottetown Festival); *Shakespeare in Love*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Matilda*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Citadel Theatre), *Gin Game*, *Cottagers and Indians* (Watermark Theatre); *The Secret Garden*, *The Louder We Get*, *Billy Elliot*, *Bad Jews*, *Liberation Days* (Theatre Calgary); *Next to Normal*, *Mary Poppins*, *Crazy For You* (Theatre Calgary/Citadel Theatre).



**Delaney Small**  
**Apprentice Stage Manager**

This is Delaney Small's Aquarius Debut. Her select theatre credits include *The Chorines*, and *Turn the Page* (Theatre Sheridan), *An Enemy of the People* (Theatre Erindale), *Shirley Valentine* (Capitol Theatre), *Jenny's House of Joy* (Foster Festival), *Once* (Thousand Islands Playhouse). Delaney is a graduate of Sheridan College's Technical Production for the Performing Arts Industry program. She would like to thank her family and friends who have always encouraged her to pursue her passion for theatre.



**Julie Tomaino**  
**Choreographer**

Julie Tomaino is thrilled to be making her Theatre Aquarius Debut with *Pollyanna The Musical!* She is a director and choreographer and has won both Dora and Jessie Awards for her work in Musical Theatre. Recent credits include *Elf*, *Beautiful*, *Kinky Boots* (The Arts Club), *Jersey Boys*, *9 to 5*, *Once* (The Citadel), *Shrek*, *Hairspray*, *Newsies* (TUTS), *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Billy Elliot* (Theatre Calgary), *We Will Rock You*, *Shout!*, *Rocky Horror* (Magnus), *Jersey Boys*, *Once* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), and *Footloose*, *Grease*, *Marvelous Wonderettes* (Chemainus). She loves educating the next gen-

eration of artists and has been on faculty at AMDA NYC, Sheridan College, Randolph College for the Performing Arts, and Capilano University. Julie is a former Radio City Rockette. Her next project is *The Full Monty* (Neptune).



**Michael Vieira**  
**Associate Music Director**

Michael is a Canadian musician, composer, conductor, and musical director based in Toronto. Michael has performed most recently as Assistant Conductor/Keyboard for *Rock of Ages* and Assistant Musical Director for *Annie*, *Piaf/Dietrich*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*. As a keyboard player for Mirvish Productions, his credits include *Wicked*, *Book of Mormon*, *Mamma Mia*, *Lion King*, *Beautiful* and *Bat Out of Hell*. In addition, Michael toured with The Canadian Tenors for two years, and has composed scores for eight seasons at the Stratford Festival.



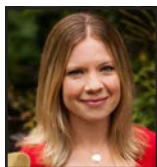
**Natalie Bartello**  
**Consulting Producer**

Natalie is pleased to be licensing *Pollyanna* to Theatre Aquarius for this production. Natalie is a producer and partner at Yonge Street Theatricals, a Tony, Olivier and Dora Award winning production company based in Toronto. Favourite Broadway credits include; *Come From a Away*, *A Strange Loop*, and *Good Night, Oscar*. Upcoming on Broadway this spring *Water for Elephants*, and *Cabaret*. Also in development the award-winning Canadian musical *Life After* by Britta Johnson (Canstage/MSC, The Old Globe, The Goodman Theatre)

Natalie is a member of the Broadway League and alumna of the Commercial Theatre Institute. Congratulations to the *Pollyanna* team for all of their dedication to this project!

# MUSICIANS

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**Roslyn Black**  
**Horn**

Roslyn Black is grateful to be a product of her excellent Saskatchewan public school music program! She holds degrees from the University of Victoria, and the New England Conservatory of Music, and has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony, Opéra Comique (Paris), and the Atlanta Opera. Roslyn spent 4 wild and wonderful years with the New World Symphony in Miami before relocating to Toronto in 2010, where she maintains a busy performing schedule and is adjunct faculty at Havergal College. A dedicated member of the Toronto Concert Orchestra, Roslyn also appears regularly with the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Niagara Symphony, Kingston Symphony and various Mirvish musical productions. She is a founding member and Co-Director of the avant-garde Toronto ensemble, euphonia, and as backing artist has appeared on various pop albums including *The Last Rider* by Ron Sexsmith and *Evin on Earth* by Mike Evi.



**Jamie Drake**  
**Percussion**

Jamie Drake is a percussionist, drummer, arranger and composer who loves musical collaboration and is thrilled to be making his Theatre Aquarius debut.

Selected other theatre credits include work with Musical Stage Company (*UnCovered*, *Next to Normal*, *Fun Home*), Canadian Stage (*London Road*), Mirvish (*Matilda*), Young People's Theatre (*Jacob Two-Two*, *Suessical*, *Pinocchio*) and Talk is Free Theatre (*Assassins*, *Candide*, *Into the Woods*). In addition to his work in musical theatre, Jamie regularly performs with choirs and orchestras across the GTA. He is a member of TorQ Percussion Quartet, with whom he has performed recitals and concertos across North America, and is a member of the artistic staff of the Hamilton Children's Choir and percussionist with the Toronto Children's Chorus. Jamie holds a master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a doctorate from the University of Toronto, and is currently Assistant Professor of Percussion at the DAN School of Drama and Music at Queen's University.



**Garrett Hack**  
**Woodwinds**

Garrett Hack is a GTA-based woodwind musician and educator. Credits include: *Mean Girls* (Mirvish), *Cats* (1st National Revival), *Lover Neve Dies* (1st National), *Kinky Boots* (1st National), and world tours of *Saturday Night Fever* and *Chicago*. Looking forward to my first production with Theatre Aquarius! Always proud to help spread stories through performance. Strong supporter of live theatre and music education for all!



**Emily Hau**  
**Violin**

Emily is the former Principal Second of the "world-class ensemble" (Russelshheimer Echo Germany) Sinfonia Toronto, recent highlights from Emily Hau's multi-genre musical profile include lead roles in the OLG Courage and Kia EV6 commercials, touring South America and China, session work for the award-winning video game *Cuphead*, doubling on both violin and viola at the 2022 Juno Awards, and playing the Mirvish Productions of *Hadestown* and *In Dreams*. Emily's love for diverse projects takes her from Yamaha and D'Addario Artist Dévah Quartet to supporting artists like Barbra Streisand, Diana Krall, The Eagles, Michael Bubl  and Rod Stewart.



**Will Jarvis**  
**Bass**

Will is a busy freelance bassist, composer and educator who has performed with Latin-jazz artists Tito Puente, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Paquito D'Rivera, Hilton Ruiz and Hilario Duran. He currently performs and records as a member of the award-winning groups Manteca. As an educator Will is on the music faculties of Humber College in Toronto and Mohawk College in Hamilton. He was a musician in Theatre Aquarius' *Spamalot*. Other theatre credits include: *Hadestown* and *Piaf/Dietrich* (Mirvish); *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Billy Elliot*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Stratford Festival); *Jersey Boys*, *9 to 5: The Musical* (Dancap); *Peter Pan* (Ross Petty); *Grease: The Musical* (Irregular Ent.); *The Prom*, *West Side Story*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Sister Act*, *Smoke Joe's Caf *, *Blood Brothers* (Drayton Entertainment).





**John Tortolano**  
**Cello**

A native of Vermont, Jonathan Tortolano has been living and working in Toronto since 1999. He studied at New England Conservatory, Oberlin College and The Cleveland Institute of Music and was often found in the woods of Quebec attending summer courses at Centre d'Arts Orford with Janos Starker or in the pit of the Teatro Nuovo in Spoleto playing opera. Arriving in Canada from Europe, Jonathan has held positions with orchestras in Quebec, Spain, Portugal, Canada and the United States. Chamber music lured him to France, to play with Quatuor Prima Vista, and Lisbon, as cellist of Quartet Metropolis. Sunflower Music Festival has been a highlight of his, as well as Music Niagara each summer. Jonathan teaches cello and chamber music at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and travels through hail, sleet, and snow, to play with the Pittsburgh Opera. In 2019 Jonathan won the Principal Cello position with the Michigan Opera Theatre at the Detroit Opera House. Jonathan is married to Polish violinist Janetta Wilczewska. They have a daughter, Fabia, who thinks all musicians are nuts.



**Mike Wark**  
**Saxophone & Woodwinds**

Toronto-based saxophonist and woodwind specialist Mike Wark maintains a busy freelance career working across multiple genres in the diverse Southern Ontario music scene. He has worked with the likes of NOJO and Gary Morgan's PanAmericana Ensemble, orchestra settings such as Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Casa Loma Orchestra, and Shaw Festival Theatre, and on pop stages with The Tenors, children's entertainer Fred Penner, and celebrity personality Hugh Jackman. Mike is also a composer/arranger, a recording session musician, and is heavily involved in music education as a private lesson instructor and founder of the Toronto Jazz Explorers program which focuses on community-learning Jazz ensembles for adults. Mike has a B.Mus in Jazz Studies from Humber College and a M.Mus in Jazz Performance from University of Toronto.

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Yonge Street Theatricals would like to give special thanks to:

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# STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR – ANNETTE HAMM

On behalf of the Aquarius Board of Directors, welcome to our 50th season! Our stage is set for a big celebration of our past, present, and future.

I vividly remember the first play I saw at Theatre Aquarius. It was called 'Sylvia', and it ripped my heart out. Yet I couldn't wait to see more (that's the grip of good theatre, right?). The next season, my husband and I became Aquarius subscribers. That was 20 years ago. Over that time, we've had a regular date at the theatre for every show. So we've come back to enjoy again, and again. 'Maggie' this past season was a personal record – I saw it four times and was convinced I could fill in if the cast needed me.

Before I started volunteering at Theatre Aquarius, I had the awesome experience of acting on the Aquarius stage in the fundraiser 'Discovering Elvis'. It gave me a huge appreciation of the work behind the scenes and on stage. It also cemented my love of theatre. There is so much magic that happens before the lights go up.

Our plays this season highlight so many of the ways theatre can transport us – whether it's living your dream, finding your path, starting a conversation, sharing a laugh or a cry. It's good to find you here at Aquarius. We hope you'll find your way back.



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## MESSAGE FROM DONNA PATTERSON – OUR 50TH SEASON SPONSOR

It is again my great pleasure to offer my support to Theatre Aquarius as the 50th Season Sponsor. My late husband Ron and I shared a goal to positively impact the arts and culture experiences available to those who live and visit our region. As a professional, not for profit theatre, Aquarius has been a leader in artistic excellence in the sector. I am excited for the upcoming season of celebration and I hope you enjoy the productions and join me in championing the work of Theatre Aquarius amongst your friends, families, neighbours and colleagues. Here's to another 50 years of theatre that delights, entertains and inspires!



We are grateful for the support of the following individuals, businesses and foundations whose collective contributions ensure we continue to offer world class professional theatre by renowned artists and that our community and educational outreach programs continue to positively impact young and diverse theatre lovers.

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