

AMT
THEATER

A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

UPSIDE
&
DOWN

The title 'UPSIDE & DOWN' is rendered in large, bold, black-outlined letters. The ampersand is replaced by a white female symbol (♀) and a white male symbol (♂) intertwined. To the left of the title, a silhouette of a man and a woman are shown upside down, holding hands. To the right, a silhouette of a man and a woman are shown standing upright, also holding hands. The background is a light purple color with faint musical notation.

Music and Lyrics by **AL TAPPER**

Book by **TONY SPORTIELLO**

Directed and Choreographed by **TAAVON GAMBLE**

Music Director **DAVID WOLFSON**

March 5 - April 5

Tues - Sat @ 7pm • Wed & Sat @ 2pm

354 W 45TH STREET NYC

AMT

WWW.AMTTHEATER.ORG



Love our theatre space?

Rent it for your next production!

Day & Weekly Rates • 97 seats • Dressing Room
Street level entrance with Marquee • Musician's Loft
and more!

AMT THEATER

Contact us: info@AMTtheater.org

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AL TAPPER

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Welcome to AMT Theater!

On behalf of the AMT Theater Board of Directors, we are pleased to share our commitment to the AMT Mission and express our sincere gratitude for your continued support.

Through the dedication of our team, we have achieved significant milestones over the past year, including winning the *W42ST Best Venue for 2024* and the New York State Senate *2024 Empire Award* in recognition of outstanding contributions and dedication to the growth, prosperity and betterment of their community and New York State.

We remain focused on developing new work and are confident in our ability to navigate future challenges while delivering sustainable growth and value to the artistic community.

Thank you for your trust and partnership.

From Co-Creator, Al Tapper...

When we began this project the intent was to write a traditional Musical Comedy. Hopefully we have attained that, but along the way we found the subject was also one of social consciousness.

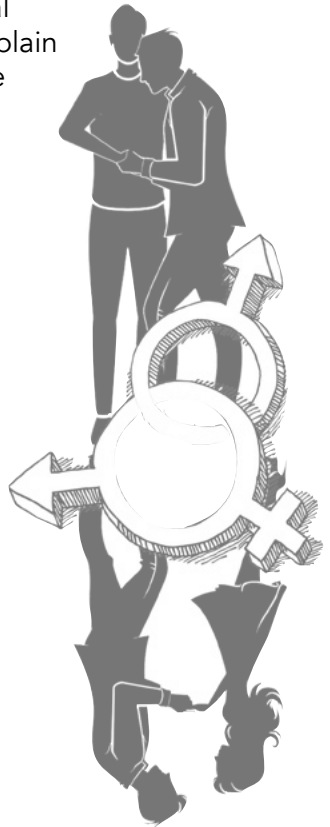
People like to believe that all men and women are created equal and have the rights no different than their neighbors. Over the years we have wanted to believe that Gays were equal to Straights, Jews were equal to Gentiles, Blacks were equal to Whites. How wrong we were. They are all equal in theory, but not in practice.

We decided to turn the world UPSIDE/DOWN and compare the results. We chose sexual choice to be how we would share and explain this problem. We made 90% of all people in the world Gay and 10% Straight. And the Gay people would treat the Straight people the way for centuries the way Straight people treated Gay people.

We did it with music and humor, but in reality we were asking people to THINK! Are we all equal or as George Orwell wrote, "All people are equal, but some people are more equal than others." We choose instead to believe what is written in the Declaration of Independence...That all men (And women) are created equal.

No exceptions.

- Al



OPENING NIGHT: MARCH 8 2025

AMT THEATER

UPSIDE DOWN



Music and Lyrics by **ALBERT TAPPER**

Book by **TONY SPORTIELLO**

Directed and Choreographed by **TAAVON GAMBLE**

Music Director **DAVID WOLFSON**

Featuring

**Bernie Baldassaro Patrick Brady Mike Ferlita Jake Foster
Lauren Gemelli Kira Sarai Helper Ashanti J'Aria Matthew Liu
Kelli Maguire Stephanie Maloney Gina Milo Brogan Nelson
Josh Powell Noah Ruebeck**

Scenic Design
WILLIAM OLSON

Costume Design
GINA RUIZ

Lighting Design
AIDEN BEZARK

Sound Design
RYAN MARSH

Property Master
HANNAH POLASKI

Fight Director
HANNAH ROCCISANO

Intimacy Director
SHIRA HELENA GITLIN

Prod. Stage Manager
NATALIE JONES

Asst. Director
MARIA CABRAL

Asst. Stage Manager
KYLE BINKLEY

Press Rep
JAY MICHAELS

Casting Director
LARA HAYHURST

Production Manager
TAMARA FLANNAGAN

Marketing Director
JOAN PELZER

General Manager
SHARON OSOWSKI

Arrangements/Orchestrations
DAVID WOLFSON

Meet the Cast...



**BERNIE
BALDASSARO**



**PATRICK
BRADY**



**MIKE
FERLITA**



**JAKE
FOSTER**



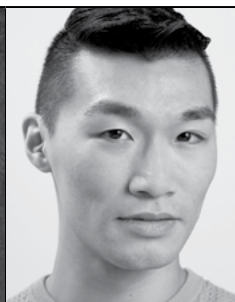
**LAUREN
GEMELLI**



**KIRA SARAI
HELPER**



**ASHANTI
J'ARIA**



**MATTHEW
LIU**



**KELLI
MAGUIRE**



**STEPHANIE
MALONEY**



**GINA
MILO**



**BROGAN
NELSON**



**JOSH
POWELL**



**NOAH
RUEBECK**

UPSIDE DOWN

CAST

Midtown Boy/ Ensemble	BERNIE BALDASSARO
Eugene/ Ensemble	PATRICK BRADY
Jack Tanner.....	MIKE FERLITA
Pastor Jake/Baker/ Ensemble.....	JAKE FOSTER
Rachel/Mandy/Ensemble	LAUREN GEMELLI
General Howe/Ensemble	KIRA SARAI HELPER
Jane Tannenbaum/Joan/President Grant/Ensemble.....	ASHANTI J'ARIA
Robert Lyons.....	MATTHEW LIU
Robin Bird/Victoria/Ensemble	KELLI MAGUIRE
Waitress/ Ensemble	STEPHANIE MALONEY
Ross/Roger/Ensemble	NOAH RUEBECK
Maggie Burns	GINA MILO
Tammy	BROGAN NELSON
Lou Smalls/ Ensemble	JOSH POWELL

UNDERSTUDIES Jack Tanner (Jake Foster), Robert Lyons (Patrick Brady), Tammy & General Howe (Lauren Gemelli), Maggie Burns & Onstage Swing (Stephanie Maloney), Robin Bird (Ashanti J'Aria), President Grant/ Jane Tannenbaum (Kira Sarai Helper), Lou Smalls & Pastor Jake (Noah Ruebeck), Eugene & Onstage Swing (Bernie Baldassaro)

Dance Captain – Stephanie Maloney

Fight Captain – Bernie Baldassaro

Time: Not our time

Place: Not our place

There will be one 15 minute intermission

Restrooms are located on the lower level.

In the case of an emergency, please use exits in the lobby or on stage, behind the scenery to the right.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Overture	Band
"You Can't Make A Buck On Broadway"	Rachel & Ross
"The Musical Food Chain"	Robert & Jack
"Women Are Warriors"	Robin & Maggie
"You Are Mine"	Robert, Waitress, Ensemble
"Tennessee Rag"	Tammy, Ensemble
"Midtown Boy"	Tammy, Ensemble
"Without Mom"	Eugene
"That Was My Lucky Day"	Jack & Tammy
"We Can Run But We Can't Hide"	President Grant & General Howe
"I'm Working On A Brand New Song"	Robert
"My Female Ideal"	Robert
"I Really Love Our Country"	Lou, Pastor Jake, Victoria
"The Book's The Thing"	Jane, Jack, Robert, Maggie
"So What Will Happen"	Jack, Tammy, General Howe, Lou, Maggie, Robert, President Grant, Ensemble

ACT 2

"Stay With It Babe"	Tammy
"This Is Mine"	Baker, Jack, Customers
"All The World's A Stage"	Robin
"Tammy Came In Springtime"	Jack, Tammy, Robert
"Never"	Tammy, Jack, Robert, Robin, Maggie
"We Have Plenty To Be Thankful For"	Jack & Robert
"Raise The Flag"	Ensemble
"It's A Hit"	Full Company

ORCHESTRA

Music Director (keyboard) — David Wolfson
Percussion — Greg Landes Bass — Ken Rizzo
Reeds — Eric Lampmann Guitar — Dan Hartington

BERNIE BALDASSARO Off-Broadway debut! National tours: *The Book of Mormon*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Elf the Musical*. Other favorite credits include *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical* (Developmental Workshop/Atlantic Theatre Co.), Disney's *Freaky Friday* (North Shore Music Theatre), and *The Music Man* (Reagle Music Theatre). Proud alum of Ithaca College - BFA Musical Theatre. Insta: @bern_babie_bern

PATRICK BRADY is thrilled to join the company of *Upside Down!* He is a Brooklyn-based actor, singer, and director. NY selected credits: *Lucky Stiff* (J2 Spotlight); *Pre-Omega Point* (Bedlam); *Thrill Me* (Little Red Light); *Underground* (NYMF); *Bulldozer* (The Triad). Tour: *Curious George* (national tour); featured soloist with *Disney on Classic* (Japan and Taiwan tours). Regional: *Sense and Sensibility* (Theatre Workshop of Nantucket); *Curious George* (North Shore Music Theatre); *Cox and Box* (Theatre at

Monmouth); *Les Miserables*, *All Shook Up* (Cortland Rep); *Twelfth Night* (Camden Shakespeare). Patrick earned a B.A. in Drama from Vassar College. Proud AEA member. patricknbrady.com @patricknbrady

MIKE FERLITA Off-Broadway, *Straight Forward* (Mike), Original E.P. Recording. Touring, *RENT* 25th Anniversary Tour (Gordon). Regional, *A Bronx Tale* (Calogero) directed by Richard H. Blake. Television, PBS' *Broadway or Bust*. Mike is a member of the international mash-up group The Company Men, a Rutgers University graduate, and Eagle Scout. Thank you to the entire cast and creative team, his family and Allie!

JAKE FOSTER Off-Broadway debut! Jake Foster is a graduate of Pace University's BFA Musical Theater Program, a former Flynn Rider of Disney Cruise Theatrical, and creator of his multimillion-view online persona JC Foster. Jake would like to thank his parents, Scott and Paula.

LAUREN GEMELLI NYC: City Opera's *CANDIDE*, directed by Hal Prince. Tours: *CHICAGO: THE MUSICAL*, *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE*. Regional: Arena Stage, Trinity Rep, Central City Opera, Pittsburg CLO, Lyric Stage, Theatre by the Sea, Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston. Film/TV: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Training: Boston Ballet, Manhattanville DTH, Verdon/Fosse Legacy. Reps: ATB. IG: @lalagem. This is Lauren's Off-Broadway debut.

KIRA SARAI HELPER (she/her) is an actor, playwright, songwriter and board-certified music therapist (MT-BC) hailing proudly from The Bronx, NY. She holds an MFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She is ecstatic to be making her Off-Broadway debut with the *Upside Down* team. Kira is currently composing music for a

new musical set to premiere at Zeider's American Dream Theatre in Virginia Beach, VA in 2026. Favorite past credits include: *Sister Act The Musical*, South Korea Tour (Deloris); *WILD: A Musical Becoming* (Idina Menzel Standby/Swing) and *Macbeth in Stride* (Witch) for the American Repertory Theater; *#MATTER* (Kim) for Barrington Stage Company; and *Once On This Island* (Beaxhome/Storyteller) for Speakeasy Stage Co. Commercials: Shark Tank x Behave Bras; The Power of Women, Healthworks Fitness; The Table is Set, Primark and the Boston Globe.

ASHANTI J'ARIA AMT Debut! Broadway: *Saturday Night Fever*, First National Broadway Tour of *The Prom*. Originated "the old woman" in Stephen Schwartz's musical *The Secret Silk* directed by John Tartaglia for Princess cruises. Off Broadway: *Disaster*, Tony Award winner Andy Sandberg's *The Last Smoker In America*, *The Mikado*, *Chicken and Biscuits* (pre-Broadway). Regional: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Beehive*, *Caroline Or Change*, *Ain't Misbehavin* with Richard Maltby Jr, and then under the guidance of Ken Page. She is regularly seen as the Broadway Guest Artist for Disney as Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* on the Disney Wish. That production has the distinction of living in the stateroom video library content. Support vocals to Grammy award winning artists including Gloria Gaynor, Ronnie Spector, Herb Reed's Platters, and Lea Delaria. Feature Film: *Maya and Her Lover* (Allblk network) Associate Producer, Title character and co-writer/co-producer/recording artist for the song "You Get to Choose" on film soundtrack with Nile Rodger's Engineer/MD, Russell Graham. Short films: *Vial*, *There For You*, *Echos In Silence*. TV: *Law & Order* (NBC The OG) *FBI's Most Wanted* (CBS) *Katy Keene* (CW) *BULL* (CBS) *Only Murders in the Building* (Hulu) Next up: *Becky in Waitress* at the ArtsClub Theatre in Vancouver! Reps ATB www.instagram.com/ashantijaria Steve Martin "you're funny".

MATTHEW LIU AMT Theater debut! Recent acting: Song Liling in *M. Butterfly* (Woodstock Playhouse), Bandleader Wallace Hartley and Third Officer Pitman in *Titanic* (Fireside Theatre), The Fiddler in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fireside Theatre), *Nightclub Cantata* (the cell theatre), Stephen Sondheim's *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (Theater 2020). Music Directing: *Nederlander Worldwide*, Off-Broadway and Regional. Training: The Juilliard School. So much love to all family, friends and mentors – couldn't have done it without you! youtube.com/c/MatthewLiu Insta/TikTok: @matthliuthings

KELLI MAGUIRE is thrilled to be back on Off Broadway! Her last endeavor was *NATIONAL PASTIME* at the Peter Jay Sharp at Playwrights Horizons. Among her favorite roles are Bernadette in *POTUS*, Sally Bowles in *CABARET* and Ilona in *SHE LOVES ME*. Kelli is currently working on a one woman show based on her growing up in a Carnival. She wants to thank all her friends at AMT and would like to dedicate her performance to her greatest accomplishment yet - son, Tobias.

STEPHANIE MALONEY Off-Broadway Debut! National & Int'l companies of Broadway's *Chicago*, *The Wick Theatre* (Carbonell Nominee for Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*) Other favorite regional theatres include Sacramento Music Circus, Maine State Music Theatre, The Fulton, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public, Pioneer Theatre, Arc Stages, Farmers Alley, & soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Lotte Lenya Competition semi-finalist. TV: *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*. UMich Alum. Thanks to my GAN and as always for my boys www.stephaniemaloney.com

GINA MILO is thrilled to be making her AMT debut! Broadway/Tours: *Les Miserables*, *Annie* and *Best Little Whorehouse*. Regional: *Bonnie and Clyde* (Blanche) at Pioneer Theatre,

Shear Madness (Barbara) at FST; *Kinky Boots* (Nicola) at PCLO; *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Muriel) at the Engeman; *Spitfire Grill* (Shelby) at the Vanguard; *Golden Rainbow* (Monique) and *Subways are for Sleeping* (Martha) at the York Theatre; *Gentleman's Guide* (Sibella) and *Mamma Mia* (Tanya), *Jersey Boys* (Mary) and many others at the SCA, *Little Shop...* (Audrey) at PCS and Cincinnati Playhouse; *The Producers* (Ulla) at the Argyle Theatre; *White Christmas* (Betty), *Xanadu* (Kira) and *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake) at Drury Lane. Enormous gratitude to her amazingly supportive husband, Ken and her beautiful daughter, Olivia. Instagram: @ginadmilo Website: ginamilo.com

BROGAN NELSON's Off-Broadway debut! Recent graduate of The Boston Conservatory where she performed in *City of Angels* (Oolie/Donna), *As You Like It* (Ensemble), and *And Then There Were None* (Mrs. Rogers). Her recent professional productions include *Laughs in Spanish* (Jenny), *The Prom!* (Ensemble/Emma US), *Escape to Margaritaville* (Rachel), *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob), *Evil Dead* (Cheryl), and *Peter Pan* (Tootles). Brogan would like to thank her mom and brother for the endless support, and would like to dedicate this performance to her dad and to Mr. (Paul) Aikins, who watch over and guide her every day. ig: brogan.nelson

JOSH POWELL is thrilled to make his AMT debut! Last season he appeared in *White Christmas* (Music Theatre of CT), *Mystic Pizza* (Ivoryton), *Grumpy Old Men* (Seven Angels), and *A Little Night Music* (Theater 2020). He's also appeared with Goodspeed (*City of Angels*), Penguin Rep (*Art*, *Syncopation*, and *Joseph Andrews*), REV (9 to 5), as well as in *On Golden Pond* with James Naughton and *A Christmas Carol* with Kathleen Turner. Leading roles with many opera companies include: Utah Festival, El Paso, Light Opera OK, Connecticut Lyric, and Townsend. Josh is

the recipient of both the San Francisco Critics Circle Award and Dramalogue Award. @JustJoshPowell

NOAH RUEBECK is as happy as a clam to be joining the cast of *Upside Down*. His New York credits include *The Lieutenant* at The York, Liz Swados' *Night-*

club Cantata, and *The Queen's Ball: A Bridgerton Experience*. Regionally, he has performed at the Goodspeed Opera House, Ogunquit Playhouse, Northern Stage, the John W. Engeman Theatre, and many more! Couldn't be doing it without Mom, Dad, & Wolfie, as well as all the teachers along the way.

CREATIVE TEAM

ALBERT M. TAPPER (*Music and Lyrics*)

While attending Boston University, Al Tapper wrote his first musical at the age of 20. Since then, he has written special material for regional productions, composed seven musicals, a ballet, a rhapsody, and a capriccio. He has written two straight plays and four books, and produced three documentary films. Al's seven musicals have also garnered success throughout the years opening in various cities on the eastern seaboard. His off-Broadway musical, *iMperfect Chemistry*, for which he composed the music and created the story, opened at the Minetta Lane Theater in New York City in April of 2000. The musical revue *From Where I Stand* opened at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in March of 2004. *Sessions*, a new musical opened at the Peter Sharp Theater (Playwrights Horizons) and the Algonquin Theater and ran for over 400 performances. It was translated into Spanish and played in Mexico where it won the best musical of the year in 2011. He wrote the musical *An Evening at the Carlyle* which ran at The Algonquin Theater and was reviewed as 'best show of the Summer'... 2010 by UPI. *National Pastime*, played at the Keegan Theater in Washington DC in 2011 and was chosen to be considered for a Helen Hayes Award. In 2023 at the AMT Theater, he wrote *An Unbalanced Mind* a musical show featuring 21 songs written over the many years of his career; his straight play *Bettingers Luggage* which takes a nostalgic look back, warts and all, at a family business in the old neighborhood of New York's

Lower East Side; and *David the Musical*. Al produced the documentary film entitled *Broadway: The Golden Age, By The Legends Who Were There* written and directed by Rick McKay. He produced *Broadway Musicals...A Jewish Legacy* written and directed by Michael Kantor about contributions of Jewish composers and lyricists from the beginning of Broadway and still today. The latest film he produced opened in 2018 on PBS American Masters: *Ted Williams... The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived*. His movie *A Righteous Gentile*, a documentary about Gentiles who risked their own lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, will be completed in mid-2025. Both of these films were written and directed by Nick Davis. Al is a member of the Dramatists' Guild of America and ASCAP (American Society of Composers and Publishers). Further information can be found at: amtentertainment.com.

TONY SPORTIELLO (*Book*) is the Artistic Director of AMT Theater Productions, winner of the 2024 Best Venue Award by West 42nd Street Online. Created in 2021, AMT has already produced several musicals, including *An Unbalanced Mind*, *On The Right Track*, *Bettinger's Luggage*, and *David the Musical*. The highly acclaimed Youth Theater Department has presented *Shrek, Jr.*, *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, *The Addams Family, Jr.*, *The Prom, Jr.* and most recently, *Something Rotten, Jr.* This past February AMT partnered with The Abingdon Theatre Company to present *Raise The Page*, *Uplift the Word* spotlighting stories written by

people of color. Tony is also the author of several plays and musicals, including *National Pastime*, *LOL*, *On The Right Track*, *Second Chance*, *Zoom In* and more. His shows have been produced throughout the country and throughout the world, including New York, Washington, D.C., Mexico, England, Finland, China and Russia. His plays *Contract Time* and *National Pastime* are included in the Literary section of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

TAAVON GAMBLE (*Director/Choreographer*) Off-Broadway: *Choreographer, Pericles*, Classic Stage/Fiasco Theater. Direction/Choreography: *La Cage aux Folles*, Trinity Rep; *Boulevard of Bold Dreams* (East Coast Premiere), Greater Boston Stage Company; *The Little Mermaid*, Reagle Music Theatre; *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Peach State Summer Theatre; *Pippin*, Jean's Playhouse; *Seussical*, Pittsburgh Playhouse; *A Chorus Line*, *All Shook Up*, *The Addams Family*, Arundel Barn Playhouse. Choreography: *The Prom* (Elliot Norton- Best Choreography nomination), *A Strange Loop*, Speakeasy Stage; *A Christmas Carol* (2019, 2021, 2024), Trinity Rep; *The Color Purple* (NY regional premiere), *Hair*, White Plains Performing Arts Center; *Legally Blonde*, Moonbox Productions; *Alice By Heart*, *Something Rotten!*, Boston Conservatory; *Emma*, Actors' Shakespeare Project; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, The Gamm Theatre; *Airness*, University of California Santa Barbara; *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Brown University; *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Wedding Singer*, *High School Musical*, Bigfork Summer Playhouse. Taavon is a resident artist at Trinity Repertory Theatre Company in Providence, RI and recipient of the Richard Kavanaugh Memorial Fellowship. SDC member. Infinite thanks to my parents for their support, to M & R, and endless love to William. taavongamble.com @taavongamble

DAVID WOLFSON (*Music Director/ Arrangements/ Orchestrations*) has worked as music director, composer, orchestrator, arranger, pianist, copyist or synthesizer programmer for performances in venues ranging from Broadway theatres to elementary school cafeteriums. He has served as music director and/or arranger for numerous regional and Off-Broadway productions, including Al Tapper and Tony Sportiello's *All Aboard!* and *National Pastime*, and has played in the pits of over twenty-five Broadway shows, including all three productions of *Les Miserables*. He holds a PhD in music composition from Rutgers University, and is the composer of *Fortune's Children*, the world's first Zoom opera. To hear David's original music, please visit www.davidwolfsonmusic.net.

WILLIAM OLSON (*Scenic Design*) designed the scenery for AMT's production of *"Bettinger's Luggage"*, and is pleased to return for this exciting new musical. Bill has been very fortunate to have spent over forty years in the theatre. He's been a designer, director and performer as well as an Equity PSM for a LORT theatre in Florida. Many thanks to John for his unending support.

GINA RUIZ (*Costume Design*) has worked on internationally-acclaimed films that have been featured at Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW and Toronto International Film Festivals. Her recent collaborations include Oscar winner Djimon Housou, Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedwick. She is a member of the United Scenic Artists Local 829 IATSE and the Hollywood Costume Designers Guild, Local 892 IATSE. Theater work holds a special place in her heart as the audience plays such a vital role in the overall collaborative experience.

AIDEN BEZARK (*Lighting Design*) Aiden is a New York City-based lighting designer who specializes in musical theatre and other live performances, and par-

ticularly enjoys working on new theatre through all stages of development. Aiden's recent credits include *HONORING STEPHEN FLAHERTY* at Carnegie Hall, the premiere production of *The Witness Room* at the AMT Theater, the premiere production of *WALKING WITH BUBBLES* at the AMT Theater, *A MUSICAL ABOUT STAR WARS* at the AMT Theater, *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, *NEWSICAL* at the AMT Theater. aidenbezark.design - @aidenbezark

RYAN MARSH (*Sound Design*) (he/him) is a sound and lighting designer whose work spans across theater, concerts, opera, and dance. Originally from San Diego, his designs have been seen on both coasts and internationally. Some favorite designs include: *On The Right Track*, *Bettinger's Luggage* (AMT Theater, Off-Broadway), *Peter Pan* (McCoy Rigby Entertainment); *Tootsie*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *42nd Street*, *Cinderella*, *Into The Woods: In Concert* (Moonlight Stage Productions); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Cloud 9*, *Bus Riley's Back In Town* (NYU). Ryan received B.A. in Lighting/Sound Design from UCLA and a MFA in Lighting Design from NYU.

HANNAH POLASKI (*Prop Master*) (they/any) is thrilled to be back at AMT for their Off-Broadway debut! Previously unseen wearing many hats, such as Technical Director at LAGCC and a member of Deck Crew for *Fabulation* at The Billie Holiday Theatre, Hannah would like to thank the crew at AMT - especially Tamar - for their patience and guidance through the process. Raise the flag and on with the show!

HANNAH "ROCK" ROCCISANO (*Fight Director*) (she/they) is a New York City/Connecticut based fight director. Off-Broadway fight direction: *Cats: The Jellie Ball* (Perelman Performing Arts Center), *Wolf Play* (MCC and Soho Rep.), *A Bright New Boise* (Signature Theatre), and *Montag* (Soho Rep).

Regional: *Murder on the Orient Express* (Syracuse Stage), *Spring Awakening* (EPIC Players), *As You Like It* (Starling Shakespeare). Rock is currently serving as the resident fight and intimacy director for The Hartt School's theatre season. Hannah founded Expand, Educate, Empower, a national initiative bringing free stage combat training to students in underserved communities.

SHIRA HELENA GITLIN (*Intimacy Director*) (they/them) is a trans nonbinary director, gender consultant, intimacy director, dramaturg, and musical theatre enthusiast. As an artist, their primary focus is uplifting queer and trans stories while centering agency, authenticity, and accessibility. Select intimacy directing credits include: *Spring Awakening* (Lawrence Academy), *The Cake* (Walpole Footlighters), *Pippin*, *Argonautika*, *Noises Off!* (Brandeis University), *The Interrobangers* (Company One), *Legally Blonde* (Moonbox Productions), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Central Square Theatre), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare & Co). Shira has trained with both Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE) and Intimacy Directors & Coordinators (IDC). For more information, please visit shirahelenagitlin.com.

TAMARA FLANNAGAN (*Production Manager*) A multi-hyphenate artist, Tamar has performed many roles both onstage and off. She received her Technical Theater Degree from Florida Atlantic University while studying acting with great mentors like Zoe Caldwell and Stephen Jenn. She continued her acting training as a scholarship student at Circle In The Square Theater School. Her Broadway and Off-Broadway technical and design credits include work at The Roundabout Theater, The Barrow Group and AMT Theater among others. She is AMT's Producing Director as well as the Technical point person. Tamar was also the Prop Master for AMT Theater's *David*, *On The Right Track* and *Bettinger's Luggage*. Married to Director and Acting teacher Steven Dittmyer, founder of Meisner International.

NATALIE JONES (*Production Stage Manager*) is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist based in NYC. Previous stage management credits include: *Canned Goods* (world premiere – American Theater Group), *A Little Night Music* (directed by Hunter Foster and starring two-time Tony nominee Kate Baldwin), *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (Annabel Capper Presents...), *Wine in the Wilderness* (Two River Theater), *Sistas the Musical* (Off-Broadway), *Marguerite* (starring Tony winner Cady Huffman), *In The Bleak Midwinter* (produced, written by, and starring Emmy winner Dorothy Lyman), *Elvira: The Immigration Play* (Chicago's Collaboration Theater), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Suffolk Theater), and *Ebenezer* (Resorts Casino), among others. In addition to her stage management work, Natalie is a Kennedy Center-recognized performer/director as well as an accomplished teaching artist and dialect coach (www.nataliejdialects.com). Thanks to her brilliant ASM, Kyle, her beloved friends, and her biggest cheerleaders: Mom, Dad, Zach, and Hannah. Ephesians 6:7.

LARA HAYHURST (*Casting Director*) is happy to be back with the AMT family, where she previously cast last year's production of *David*. Other Off-Broadway: *Love In Idleness*. National Tour: *Noel: The Musical*. Selected Regional: Saugatuck Center for the Arts, Great Lakes Center for the Performing Arts, The Rev, Wellfleet Harbor, Skyline Theater. Thanks to Tony, Al, Taavon, and this amazing cast and team. Here's to making good art with good people. larahayhurst.com and @larahayhurst.

MARIA NORIKO CABRAL (*Assistant Director*) is thrilled to be making her Off-Broadway debut and joining team *Upside Down!* She has choreographed *Gothic Halloween* and *Miscast Cabaret '24* with MilkyWay Theatre Company as well as the *Golden Oldies Cabaret* with The Nameless Theatre Company at Green Room 42. She also became

a Gamm Fellow for Emerging Artists of Color at The Gamm Theater for their inaugural year ('21-'22), where she was the Assistant to the Director for *Ironbound*. Maria was also the 2020 recipient of the Kennedy Center ACTF ASPIRE/LORT Leadership Award, as well as becoming a 2021 KCACTF ASPIRE National Fellow. She would like to thank Taavon for this incredible opportunity and her parents and friends for their endless support and love. @marianoriko_

KYLE BINKLEY (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back Off-Broadway working on *Upside Down* at AMT Theater. Kyle is an alumnus of Arcadia University, where he earned a BA in Theatre Arts. In addition to stage management, he can also regularly be found performing onstage, building sets, and working in various other technical areas of theatre. Select ASM credits: *Macbeth* (Shakespeare Theatre of NJ); *A Little Night Music* (American Theater Group); *Parade* (American Theater Group); *In the Heights* (Music Mountain Theatre). Select PSM credits: *The Goodbye Girl* (The J2 Spotlight Musical Theater Co. [Off-Broadway]); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Axelrod Performing Arts Center); *Into the Woods* (Music Mountain Theatre); *The Last Match: A Pro-Wrestling Rock Experience Tour*. Many thanks to Natalie and Taavon for the opportunity to work on this production. IG: [kyle_binkley](https://www.instagram.com/kyle_binkley)

ADRIAN "RIA" MELLOWES (*Wardrobe Supervisor*) has loved the backstage technical theatre world since they were young, and is incredibly grateful to be the wardrobe supervisor for this production. They are an alumni of the Roundabout Theatrical Workforce Development Program, and has worked in several theaters across the city and Upstate NY. *Follow me on Instagram! @pomegranate*

LUCY PIZZICAROLA (*Wardrobe Assistant*) (she/her) is excited to work at

AMT Theatre for the first time. As a recent graduate of SUNY Fredonia she has previous credits at The Contemporary American Theatre Festival, The Glimmerglass Fester, and The Juilliard School. She is very excited to work with the cast and crew, and can not wait to see where theatre takes her.

KEN RIZZO (*Bass*) A veteran of musical theater, Ken is delighted to once again be playing the music of Al Tapper. Previous collaborations include *National Pastime*, *On The Right Track*, *An Unbalanced Mind*, & *David*. He has also been an orchestra member for many hit Broadway shows including: *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Memphis*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Producers*, and many others. One of those others was *Jersey Boys*, for which he played during the entire 16-year Broadway/Off-Broadway run. Ken has BS and MA degrees in music from CUNY. Thanks to wife Laura and daughter Elena for their love and support.

DAN HARTINGTON (*Guitar*) NYC credits include *The Notebook*, *The Outsiders*, *Suffs*, *A Beautiful Noise*, *Camelot*, *Beetlejuice*, and others, as well as a number of Off-Broadway productions and regional theater productions across New England. He has performed with Broadway artists such as Will Swenson, Erich Bergen (*Jersey Boys*, *Chicago*), Kyle Taylor Parker (*Kinky Boots*), Analise Scarpaci (*Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Matilda*), and Nick Fradiani (*American Idol*, *A Beautiful Noise*) at NYC venues including The Town Hall, Cafe Carlyle, 54 Below, Joe's Pub, The Mercury Lounge, and others. In addition to performing, he is Professor of Commercial Guitar at The Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford.

GREGORY LANDES (*Percussionist*) Gregory is always grateful to be able to collaborate with the amazing team at AMT. For the past 30+ years Gregory has performed as a drummer/percussionist for over 50 Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, working

with such theatre icons as Stephen Sondheim, Susan Stroman, Julie Andrews, and John Kander. Gregory also works extensively in the classical and chamber music field and is a passionate teacher and mentor. Fulfilling another love in his life, animals, Gregory recently began working as a veterinary technician in an ER at a major NJ animal hospital.

FIGHT DIRECTOR ASSISTANT..... Skye Bronfenbrener

REHEARSAL PIANIST Harry Collins

AUDIO Al..... Seven Fine

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR..... Adrian Mellows

WARDROBE ASSISTANT Lucy Pizzicarola

HOUSE MANAGER.....Pete Dorton

GRAPHIC DESIGN Christine Cirker



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Musicians employed in this production are members of and represented by the Associated Musicians of Greater New York, Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians



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