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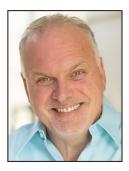


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MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT



Welcome to Buddy!

We are so excited to see you all for this performance *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*. We are always excited to share amazing works and performances here with you here at MTC. But this production is certainly a special one for us.

Buddy was originally slated to open on March 20, 2020. The show was in mid-rehearsal when, on Friday, March 13, the world stopped and the production was shut down. The last two years have certainly been challenging, but seeing this wonderful show featuring the life and music of the father of rock and roll come to life is not only a long-awaited achievement, but also another MTC cornerstone in the renaissance of live theatre in Connecticut.

We are enormously grateful to the more than 600 subscribers and patrons who have held onto their tickets from March 2020. Holding tickets for that long makes a major statement not only to a strong desire to see *Buddy*, but also to the great confidence and enthusiasm for MTC and the work that we bring you.

The journey of every production is different, but this one has been a long time coming. And, for *Buddy* in particular, we invite you to engage. Laugh, cry, sing along and join your fellow audience members in however the spirit moves you. This is a feel-good show if there ever was one.

Enjoy the show *and*... don't forget subscriptions are open for *next season* which kicks off on September 16, 2022 with the blockbuster musical *Sunset Boulevard!*

Now Let's Rock and Roll!

KEVIN CONNORS Director of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* MTC Executive Artistic Director & Co-Founder

Congratulations on another successful season!

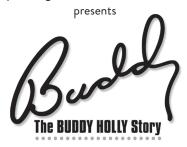


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by Arrangement with ALAN JANES



Book by ALAN JANES Music and Lyrics by BUDDY HOLLY

with

BLAIR ALEXIS BROWN* GIAN RAFFAELE DICOSTANZO* MICHAEL RAY FISHER* JEFF GURNER* JANNIE JONES* JIMMY LEWIS ROBERT MOBLEY* ELENA RAMOS PASCULLO* MATT RUFF* KEN SANDBERG* ADAM VON ALMEN* SPIFF WIEGAND*

Sound Design by WILL ATKIN Prop Design by SEAN SANFORD Wig Design by PEGGY DE LA CRUZ Costume Design by DIANE VANDERKROEF Lighting Design by RJ ROMEO Scenic Design by JESSIE LIZOTTE Production Assistant SHERRI ALFONSO Stage Managed by LOU URSONE* Choreography by CHRIS MCNIFF Musical Direction by ANGELA C. HOWELL Directed by KEVIN CONNORS

* Members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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GIAN RAFFAELE DICOSTANZO



MICHAEL RAY FISHER



JEFF GURNER



JANNIE JONES



JIMMY LEWIS



ROBERT MOBLEY



ELENA RAMOS PASCULLO



MATT RUFF



KEN SANDBERG



ADAM VON ALMEN



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(alphabetically by actor)

BLAIR ALEXIS BROWN GIAN RAFFAELE DICOSTANZO MICHAEL RAY FISHER JEFF GURNER JANNIE JONES JIMMY LEWIS ROBERT MOBLEY ELENA RAMOS PASCULLO MATT RUFF KEN SANDBERG ADAM VON ALMEN SPIFF WIEGAND Vi Petty & Others Ritchie Valens & Others Tyrone Jones & Others Tommy & Others Marlena Madison & Others The Big Bopper & Others Norman Petty & Others Maria Elena & Others Joe B. Mauldin Jerry Allison Hipockets Duncan Buddy Holly

SETTING:

TIME: January 1956 to February 1959. PLACE: Lubbock, Texas, Clovis, New Mexico, New York and Clear Lake, Iowa.

BUDDY will be performed with one 15-minute intermission

For Buddy ...

A long, long time ago... I can still remember How that music used to make me smile And I knew if I had my chance That I could make those people dance And, maybe, they'd be happy for a while

> But February made me shiver With every paper I'd deliver Bad news on the doorstep; I couldn't take one more step

And I can't remember if I cried When I read about his widowed bride But something touched me deep inside

The day the music died

Don McLean (1971)

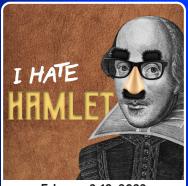
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MUSIC CREDITS

Flower Of My Heart	Holly House Inc.
Ready Teddy	
That's All Right.	
Changing All Those Changes	
That'll Be The Day	MPL Comm. Inc. MPL/Wren
Blue Days Black Nights	Unichappell Music Inc.
Rock Around With Ollie Vee	
Looking For Someone To Love	MPL Comm. Inc. MPL/Wren
Mailman Bring Me No More Southern Mu	usic Publishing Co. /Beinstock Publishing
Maybe Baby	MPL Comm. Inc. MPL/Wren
Everyday	Southern Music Publishing Co.
<i>Shout</i>	Sony/ATV
Not Fade Away	MPL Comm. Inc. MPL/Wren
<i>Peggy Sue</i>	MPL Comm. Inc. MPL/Wren
Words of Love	
<i>Oh Boy</i>	
Listen To Me	
Well Alright	
It's So Easy To Fall In Love	
Think It Over Cedarwood Publish	
When You Ask About Love	
True Love Ways	
A Teenager In Love	
Why Do Fools	Windswept Pacific Ent.
Chantilly Lace	
	ox Music Inc. / Trio Music Company Inc.
Peggy Sue Got Married	6
Heartbeat	
Raining In My Heart	
It Doesn't Matter Anymore	
<i>Rave</i> On	
Johnny B. Goode	Isalee Music Co.

All other songs, arrangements and incidental music by Paul Jury



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WHO'S WHO

BLAIR ALEXIS BROWN (*Vi Petty & Others*) At MTC: *Cole*, and served on Voice Faculty for MTC's award-winning School of the Performing Arts from 2010-2015. Recent: *Goldstein* Off-Broadway, Ogunquit Playhouse, Tuacahn Center for the Arts, NYMF, many more. Hats worn: Cabaret artist crooning jazz standards all over NYC, accompanist and coach, a cappella quartet vocalist, piano and voice teacher, regular studio vocalist for Broadway record label PS Classics. Thanks, Kevin and Jimmy.

GIAN RAFFAELE DICOSTANZO (Ritchie Valens & Others) is psyched to be back on stage and making his MTC debut! Select Credits: Jersey Boys (NCL), PAW Patrol Live! (Nat'l Tour), A Bronx Tale, Smokey Joe's Café, Buddy:The Buddy Holly Story. Gian is an active voice over talent and musician. In 2021, Gian founded his own business: StageLight Candle Company. Emerson College '16. @gi_raffaele @stagelightcandleco

MICHAEL RAY FISHER (Tyrone Jones & Others) is beyond excited, after two very long years to finally be making his debut at MTC! Also, feels extremely blessed to be back on a stage doing what he loves! He has recently been seen singing on NBC's America's Got Talent with JW's Inspirational Singers. Favorite credits include: Rocktopia (Broadway) Elf, National Tour (Store Manager) The Little Mermaid (Sebastian), Civil War (Frederick Douglas), Dreamgirls (CC White), Parade (Jim). As always love to friends and family for the constant support. Insta: MichaelRayFisher

JEFF GURNER (Tommy & Others) has appeared at MTC in Falsettoland, Tru, Ragtime, Jekyll & Hyde, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. Broadway: The Lion King. Off-Broadway/NY: Five Course Love. TV: FBI, Homeland, The Good Wife. Jeff has recorded hundreds of voiceovers for television and radio commercials, video games and animated series, and he is an award-winning audiobook narrator.

JANNIE JONES (Marlena Madison & Others) Broadway/Off Broadway: The Full Monty (u/s) as Georgie (went on in the role. Hair as Dionne (Carre) Amsterdam. Mama I Want to Sing as Sister Carrie. First National Broadway Tour: All Shook Up as Sylvia. REGIONAL: Hairspray as Motormouth, Raisin as Lena Younger, Caroline or Change as Caroline. TV: The Get Down as Cool Herc's Mom (Netflix). Performed nationally and internationally. On Barry White's last CD Practice what you Preach Performed at Radio City, Madison Square Garden & Carnegie Hall.

JIMMY LEWIS (*The Big Bopper & Others*) is excited to be making his MTC debut with *Buddy*. He most recently played the Bopper at Florida Studio Theater. Other credits include: Disney on Classic Frozen (Japanese Tour), *Rapunzel's Royal Table* (Disney Magic), *The Producers* (Theater by the Sea), *Buddy*, *Spelling Bee, Annie, Forum, Chicago, Oklahoma* (Highlands Playhouse). Jimmy also served as the Assistant Artistic Director for the 2021 season at Highlands Playhouse.

ROBERT MOBLEY (Norman Petty & Others) was last seen at MTC in Cat on A Hot Tin Roof where he was awarded a Broadway World CT Regional award for Best Ensemble Performance in a play (equity). Other credits: The Seagull, ATA, Manipulation The Cherry Lane Theater, Suddenly Last Summer, Abingdon Theater, Macbeth, NY Classic Theater, Major Crimes, dir. Arthur Penn, Names, Marilyn Monroe Th., LA. Film-TV credits include: The Paper, dir. Steven Spielberg, Hollywood Dreams, The Commission, The Sweet Life, Facing East, and Dellaventura (CBS). He is a Lifetime Member of The Actors Studio, and a graduate of Berklee College of Music.



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WHO'S WHO

ELENA RAMOS PASCULLO (Maria Elena & Others) is thrilled to be sharing this story in Music Theatre of Connecticut's production of Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story! Elena is a singer/actress/songwriter based out of NYC. Past favorites include The Rocky Horror Show, Little Women and The Marvelous Wonderettes. Many thanks to the Buddy team, M+H, family. www.elenaramospascullo.com

MATT RUFF (Joe B. Mauldin) is excited to bring the joy of Buddy Holly's music to Connecticut! He is an AEA actor and musician based in Jersey City. He thanks God, family, and his church in Hoboken for all their support. Favorite past roles: Nathan Detroit – *Guys and Dolls*, Norman/Joe/Jerry – Buddy.

KEN SANDBERG (Jerry Allison) is delighted to be making his MTC debut! Favorite stage credits include Pride and Prejudice (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), Antony and Cleopatra (KCRep), The Heart of Robin Hood and Twelfth Night (Door Shakespeare), The Three Musketeers, The Venetian Twins, Othello, and others over five seasons at Quintessence Theatre, and his solo show The Death of... which he has performed in several venues over the past few years. Proud member of AEA.

ADAM VON ALMEN (Hipockets Duncan) Select credits: Candide (Pasadena Opera), The Buddy Holly Story (Forestburgh Playhouse), Merrily We Roll Along (Wallis Annenberg, Directed by Michael Arden), Show Boat (Opera San Luis Obispo), Closer Than Ever, The Heir Apparent (International City Theatre), My Fair Lady (New Harmony Theatre). 2020 American Traditions Vocal Competition finalist and 2019 Lotte Lenya Competition semifinalist. TV: Arrested Development. Education: Ohio Northern University and University of Kentucky. www.adamvonalmen.com

SPIFF WIEGAND (Buddy Holly) plays over 20 instruments and has been featured on Jimmy Fallon and John Oliver. He is an accomplished recording engineer and songwriter. Spiff performs as a one man band on up to seven instruments at once without using a looper. National Tour: War Horse. New York: Red Roses, Green Gold (Minetta Lane), New York Animals (Bedlam Theatre Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Theatre for a New Audience). Regional: Indecent (Palm Beach Dramaworks, Pittsburgh Public), Ring of Fire (Actors Playhouse Miami, Infinity Annapolis), Woody Sez (People's Light, Houston Stages), Mark Twain's River of Song (Milwaukee Repertory). Patreon.com/spiffwiegand

KEVIN CONNORS (Director. Executive Artistic Director & Co-Founder) Off-Broadway: Play Like a Winner (NYMF award-winner), Prime Time Prophet, Jukebox Saturday Night, The Abandoned Loves of Frederick R., Life Anonymous, Lover: The Valentino Musical, Babes Off Broadway, Saloon and Suzy Q. Selected regional productions: The Fantasticks, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, A Christmas Carol and Baby; with such stars as Joan Rivers, James Naughton, and Johnny Mathis. He has directed over 100 MTC Equity MainStage productions including Next to Normal, Cabaret, Little Shop of Horrors, Evita, Doubt, Master Class, Gypsy, (all Connecticut Critics' Circle Award Nominations/Winners), and It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, (Moss Hart Award Winner). BroadwayWorld Award Winner as Best Director for MTC's Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Connecticut Critics' Circle Best Director winner for MTC's Ragtime, and recipient of the Tom Killen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Professional Theatre. As a composer he has penned the score for numerous musicals including It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play and A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio



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Play (both published by Playscripts, Inc.), and served on the faculties of The Hartt School of Music/University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University, the University of Bridgeport and Musical Theatre Works in NYC. www.kevin-connors.com

WILL ATKIN (Sound Designer) is very excited to begin his third Season with MTC, previously running sound for Jekyll & Hyde, Always... Patsy Cline, Cabaret, and Ragtime to name a few. He has stage managed A View from the Bridge (Westport Community Theatre), played Riff in West Side Story (Wilton Playshop).Will has a degree in Audio & Music Production, with a focus in jazz trombone from Western Connecticut State University.

ANGELA C. HOWELL (Musical Director) is a is a recording artist, composer/arranger, actress, writer, director, & producer. Musical Director Highlights: Yale Summer Series, Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC), Westchester Broadway Dinner Theatre (Buddy, etc.), North Carolina Theatre (Broadway World nomination), Engeman Theatre (LI), Circle in the Square Theatre School. Recent directing: Lucky Stiff (West End Theatre, NYC), Peter Pan (Riverdale Summerstage), Angela & Friends benefit series (GoodStuff Co). This is Angela's 7th full production of Buddy (Broadway B&T, Walnut St. Theatre x2, WBDT, NCT, etc.). In 2018 she had 3 songs simultaneously in the top 100 national Adult Contemporary charts. There's Nothin' I Don't Love reached #8 in America. Camille 101, her latest studio album was just released September of 2021. A new CT resident (and former 2-state dweller), Angela lived midtown NYC for 23 yrs post MFA acting graduation from UCONN. BIG thanks to Kevin and the MTC team for all their support. This one is for our bandmate, Rick Harrington (2021). Angelachowell.com

JESSIE LIZOTTE (Scenic Designer) is returning to MTC for the long-awaited Buddy. Previous MTC design credits include Ragtime, Steel Magnolias, Sylvia, Fully Committed, RFK, and It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. Other works include Twelfth Night (Shakesperience Productions), The Thanksgiving Play (Fairfield University), Mamma Mia (Norwalk Community College), Little Shop of Horrors, Puffs, and Pippin (Fairfield Prep Players).

CHRIS MCNIFF (Choreographer) returns MTC after choreographing to Tenderly and Falsettoland this season. Previous MTC Mainstage credits include choreographing Ragtime, and appearing in Gypsy. He has traveled with the National Tour of White Christmas the last 4 years. Other favorite roles include Bert in Mary Poppins, Claude in Hair, and the National Tour of Memphis. Chris got his start in theatre at age 7 in MTC's Conservatory and is always thrilled to return! Count your blessings and enjoy the show! www.chrismcniff.com

RJ ROMEO (Director of Producion / Sound, Lighting and Projection Designer) has relocated from Pittsburgh, PA to become the Technical Director/Associate Director of Production at Westport Country Playhouse. He returns to MTC for his second season as DP and third season as resident lighting designer. Past MTC credits include Cabaret, Ragtime, Steel Magnolias, Sylvia, Fully Committed, RFK, Becoming Dr. Ruth, Tru and It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. In addition, RJ has designed lighting for countless regional productions such as Guys and Dolls, Tivelfth Night, and most recently Frozen Jr.

SEAN SANFORD (*Prop Designer*) is a Prop Designer and Theater Artist based in NYC. Previously at MTC Sean was the Props Supervisor and Scenic Charge for *Tru*. Other



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WHO'S WHO

credits include Assistant Prop Supervisor at Westport Country Playhouse, New York Theater Workshop, and the Classical Theater of Harlem, he is also on the Props team at *Blue Man Group*, NYC. Sean is thrilled to be back making Theater with MTC. To see more of his work go to seansanforddesign.com

JIM SCHILLING (Managing Director, Co-Founder) co-founded Music Theatre of CT in 1987 and is currently MTC's Managing Director and Director of the School of Performing Arts. MTC acting credits include Jacques Brel is Alive and Well..., Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down, Yours, Anne, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Doubt, Almost, Maine, God of Carnage, The Fantasticks, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The 39 Steps, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and most recently, Sylvia. He was nominated for a CT Critics Circle award for Herr Shultz in Cabaret and winner of the BroadwayWorld award for Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. He continues as a Blue Ribbon Panelist for the Daytime Emmy Awards, and is on the voting committee for the SAG awards, and a member of "Who's Who in the American Theatre" from 1991-present. Jim was also an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University (Advanced Acting, Advanced Scene Study, Script Analysis and Directing) where he was recently nominated Best Director of a musical for his work on Godspell.

LOU URSONE (*Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back at MTC where has performed and stage-managed! MTC appearances include: The Bishop in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Mushnick in *Little Shop* and Hucklebee in *The Fantasticks*. Favorite roles played: Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof,* (Kweskin Theatre and Downtown Cabaret), John Adams in 1776, (Kweskin Theatre, Ocean State Theatre, DAC), Other recent productions include *Little Shop* at CT Rep, Shakespeare on the Green – Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Also: *Shenandoah* at Goodspeed, The Duke in *Big River* (STONC), Mack Sennett in *Mack and Mabel*, Michael in *I Do*, *I Do*, Buddy in *Follies* and as Zaza/ Albin in *La Cage aux Folles*. Numerous films, commercials and television, including a recurring role on ABC-TV's *Loving*. Lou was recognized as Connecticut Arts Administrator of the Year in 2008 as Executive Director/ Producing Artistic Director of Curtain Call, Inc. Thanks, Jan, for all your love and support! AEA 35!

DIANE VANDERKROEF (*Costume Design*) has been the resident costume designer for MTC MainStage and MTC School of Performing Arts since 2006. In the past she also worked with Kevin Connors on *Babes in Toyland* at the Stamford Center for the Arts. She did designs for the Connecticut Grand Opera, including *Elixer of Love, Don Giovanni* and *Don Pasquale*. She has also been designer for Downtown Cabaret Theatre's MainStage and Children's Company, as well as various musicals for New England Lyrical Operetta. When not designing, Diane is a flight attendant for Delta Airlines.

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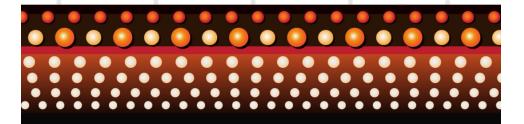


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