GYPSY

30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT

MTC MAINSTAGE

2016/2017

#MTC30

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MTC MAINSTAGE: THE FIRST 30 YEARS

1987/88
Ebenezer!
Something's Afoot
First Act Texas,
Second Act New York
Jukebox Saturday Night

1988/89
Some Enchanted Evening

1989/90
The Fantasticks
Great American
Backstage Musical
The Roar of the Greasepaint...

1990/91
Jacques Brel is
Alive and Well...
Cole

1991/92
Three Guys Naked
from the Waist Down
Rodgers and Hart
Yours, Anne
Cole
I Do, I Do

1992/93
The Gifts of the Magi
Side By Side By Sondheim
Prime Time Prophet

1994/95
Lover: The Valentino Musical

1996/97
A Little Night Music
Nite Club Confidential
Fritz and Froyim
Straw Hat

1997/98
Yours, Anne

1998/99
As Long as There's Music

1999/00
Love is On the Next Train

2000/01
Baby

2001/02
Swingcopation

2003/04 *and* **2004/05**
Babes in Toyland

2007/08
It's A Wonderful Life:
A Live Radio Play
Edges: A Song Cycle
The Last Five Years

2008/09
john & jen
Mothers and Sons
Lady Day at Emerson's
Bar & Grill

2009/10
The Story of My Life
Doubt
Pete 'n' Keely

2010/11
Klea Blackhurst's
"Everything the Traffic Will
Allow: The Songs & Sass of
Ethel Merman"
Love Letters
My Way: A Musical Tribute
to Frank Sinatra

2011/12
Cabaret
Almost, Maine
I Left My Heart…
A Salute to the Music
of Tony Bennett

2012/13
Next to Normal
Ancestral Voices
Cole: The Cole Porter Musical

2013/14
Master Class
God of Carnage
The Fantasticks

2014/15
The World Goes 'Round
A Christmas Carol:
A Live Radio Play
Driving Miss Daisy
Little Shop of Horrors

2015/16
Evita
The Santaland Diaries
Vanya and Sonia
and Masha and Spike
The Last Five Years

2016/17
Gypsy
Sleuth
It's a Wonderful Life:
A Live Radio Play
I'll Eat You Last:
A Chat with Sue Mengers
End of the Rainbow

MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT

MTC MAINSTAGE

Welcome to MTC!

We are so proud to kick off our 30th anniversary season with one of the most beloved musicals of all time. *Gypsy* is considered, by many standards, to be the most perfectly written musical. All the elements—the book, music, and lyrics—are perfectly interwoven without a wasted word, scene or song that does not serve its primary purpose either to forward the plot, or to show us something about a character we haven't seen before.

As with our previous productions of *Evita* and *Cabaret*, tonight's production of *Gypsy* will be presented in a way which has become a unique MTC signature—the reimagining of a large musical in a chamber style, with the story and characters as the primary focus. Whether you have seen *Gypsy* before, our hope is that experiening tonight's show business fable in this very intimate setting will resonate with you in an entirely new way.

We are equally proud to be celebrating our 30th anniversary season this year and have four more dynamic shows coming up. We hope that you will join us for these productions and celebrate this milestone in the Fairfield County arts community.

Thank you so much and enjoy the show!

KEVIN CONNORS
MTC Executive Artistic Director
Director of *Gypsy*

Celebrate MTC's 30th Anniversary on Social Media

Use #**MTC30** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share in the celebration!

Follow us on social media for all things MTC:
behind-the-scenes photos, cast interviews, exclusive offers, ticket giveaways and more!

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Congratulations
to Kevin Connors
and Jim Schilling
on this very special
30th anniversary.
You have impacted
the lives of so many
and culturally enriched
even more!

MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT

MTC MAINSTAGE

presents

GYPSY

A Musical Fable
Book by ARTHUR LAURENTS Music by JULE STYNE Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Suggested by memoirs of GYPSY ROSE LEE
Original Production by DAVID MERRICK & LELAND HAYWARD
Entire production originally directed and choreographed by JEROME ROBBINS

with
PAUL BINOTTO* KIRSTI CARNAHAN* BRITTANY CATTARUZZA JOE GRANDY*
JERI KANSAS* MARCA LEIGH* CARISSA MASSARO* PETER McCLUNG*
CHRIS McNIFF* ABIGAIL ROOT KATE SIMONE* JODI STEVENS*
and featuring ABBY SARA DAHAN JONAH FRIMMER
CHARLIE PELLETIER NATALIE STEELE

Costume Design by DIANE VANDERKROEF
Wigs by PEGGI DE LA CRUZ
Set Design by CARL TALLENT
Lighting Design by MICHAEL BLAGYS
Choreography by BECKY TIMMS†
Musical Direction by THOMAS MARTIN CONROY
Stage Managed by JIM SCHILLING*
Directed by KEVIN CONNORS*

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

†Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

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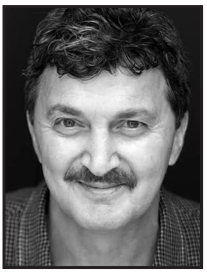
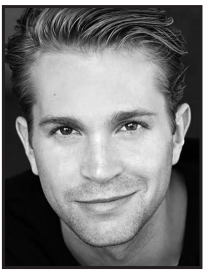


Paul
Binotto

Kirsti
Carnahan

Brittany
Cattaruzza



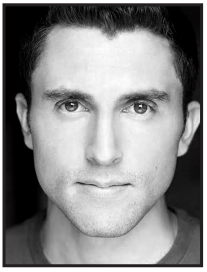
Joe
Grandy

Jeri
Kansas

Marca
Leigh

Carissa
Massaro

Peter
McClung



Chris
McNiff

Abigial
Root

Kate
Simone

Jodi
Stevens

Abby Sara
Dahan

Jonah
Frimmer

Charlie
Pelletier

Natalie
Steele

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CAST

in alphabetical order

PAUL BINOTTO	*Herbie & Uncle Jocko*
KIRSTI CARNAHAN	*Rose*
BRITTANY CATTARUZZA	*Margaret May & Others*
JOE GRANDY	*Tulsa & Others*
JERI KANSAS	*Tessie Tura & Others*
MARCA LEIGH	*Electra & Others*
CARISSA MASSARO	*June & Others*
PETER McCLUNG	*Father & Others*
CHRIS McNIFF	*Yonkers & Others*
ABIGIAL ROOT	*Agnes & Others*
KATE SIMONE	*Louise*
JODI STEVENS	*Mazeppa & Miss Cratchitt*

also featuring

ABBY SARA DAHAN	*Baby June*
JONAH FRIMMER	*Young Yonkers*
CHARLIE PELLETIER	*Young Tulsa*
NATALIE STEELE	*Baby Louise*

SCENE

Time: 1920s to the 1930s.
Place: Various cities throughout the United States.

GYPSY *IS PERFORMED WITH A TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION.*

ORCHESTRA

Piano / Conductor	THOMAS MARTIN CONROY
Second Keyboard	LUKE McGUINNESS
Drums	CHRIS JOHNSON
Reeds	GARY RUGGIERO

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SONGS

ACT ONE

"Overture" – Orchestra
"May We Entertain You?" – Baby June and Baby Louise
"Some People" – Rose
"Some People" (Reprise) – Rose
"Small World" – Rose and Herbie
"Baby June and Her Newsboys" – Baby June and Newsboys
"Mr. Goldstone, I Love You"– Rose, Herbie, Ensemble
"Little Lamb" – Louise
"You'll Never Get Away From Me" – Rose and Herbie
"Dainty June and Her Farmboys" – June and Farmboys
"Broadway" – June and Farmboys
"If Momma Was Married" – June and Louise
"All I Need is the Girl" – Tulsa and Louise
"Everything's Coming up Roses" – Rose

ACT TWO

"Madame Rose's Toreadorables" – Louise, Rose and the Hollywood Blondes
"Together, Wherever We Go" – Rose, Herbie, and Louise
"You Gotta Get a Gimmick" – Mazeppa, Electra, and Tessie Tura
"Small World" (Reprise) – Rose
"Let Me Entertain You" – Louise
"Rose's Turn" – Rose

An Invitation to Get in on the Act!

For thirty years, Music Theatre of Connecticut has been bringing theatre to Fairfield County. Music Theatre of Connecticut is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization and is governed by a volunteer board of directors and, in addition, relies on a strong group of community volunteers who serve on a variety of production and fundraising committees. Please join us and become a part of the Music Theatre of Connecticut family.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

PAUL BINOTTO *(Herbie & Uncle Jocko)* Broadway credits include the original company of *Dreamgirls, Starlight Express,* the first revival of *Hair, King of Schnorrers, One Night Stand* and *It's So Nice To Be Civilized*. Off Broadway credits include *Enter Laughing, Forever Plaid, Ionescopade* and *Shindig*. At The New York City Opera Paul was in *Sweeney Todd* and *Candide*. He performed *Forever Plaid* at the White House for President and Barbara Bush and also did the same show on a world cruise. Paul has previously played opposite Kirsti Carnahan in the New Harmony Theatre production of *Pete 'N' Keely.*

KIRSTI CARNAHAN *(Rose)* Original Marta in *Kiss of the Spider Woman,* playing Toronto, London, and Broadway with Chita Rivera and Vanessa Williams. Other Broadway/National Tour: *King David, Baby, The Three Musketeers, Les Miserables, Cats, Annie.* Regional/Stock: *Mamma Mia!, Driving Miss Daisy, Sweeney Todd, Doubt, Hello, Dolly!, Mame,* etc. Proud member of AEA since 1983.

BRITTANY CATTARUZZA *(Margaret May & Others)* is a Connecticut native who is delighted to join the cast of *Gypsy!* Favorite credits include Judy Haynes in *White Christmas,* Lorraine Flemming in *42nd Street,* Brooke Wyndham in *Legally Blonde*, Lily St. Regis in *Annie* and Cinderella in *Into the Woods.* Brittany is a proud graduate of Wagner College! Follow her journey: @ BrittCatt www.BrittanyCattaruzza.com

JOE GRANDY *(Tulsa & Ohers)* is excited to make his MTC debut. Joe started dancing at age 3, and hasn't stood still since. Some favorite credits include performing alongside legendary Tommy Tune, and singing with Debra Monk. SU grad, eternal optimist, proud uncle. Thanks Becky, Kevin, CTG, and the greatest family. Follow him! Instagram @thejoegrandy

JERI KANSAS *(Tessie Turra & Others)* began dancing professionally as a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall. She was an original Sugar Baby in the Broadway production *Sugar Babies* with Ann Miller and Mickey Rooney. Then Gower Champion cast Jeri to originate the role of Phyllis in David Merrick's Tony Award-winning musical *42nd Street*. Other regional theatre credits include Eulalie Shinn in *The Music Man*, Mona Lipschitz in *Chicago* and Anytime Annie in *42nd Street*. Ms. Kansas has choreographed *Brigadoon, Sweet Charity, Anything Goes* for Richter Musicals in Danbury and *Billy Elliot* at Thomaston Opera House. At MTC, Jeri choreographed *The World Goes 'Round*. Thank you to Kevin for the opportunity to share in his vision of *Gypsy!*

MARCA LEIGH *(Electra & Others)* recently appeared in *The Taming of the Shrew* as Bianca outdoors at the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, CT. Other recent credits include *Shakespeare and the Heart's Desire* as The Dark Lady at the Darien Arts Center, *Short and Sweet* at MTC and *Strindberg's Dollhouse* as Marie David at the National Arts Club in NYC. Marca is also an accomplished visual artist and cartoonist and member of the Theatre Artists Workshop, AEA, SAG and AFTRA.

CARISSA MASSARO *(June & Others)* is incredibly excited to be a part of this iconic show! Broadway: *Jane Eyre the Musical* (Young Jane u/s) Regional favorites include: *The Fantasticks* (Luisa - CT Circle Nominee for Best Leading Actress in a Musical), *Vanya*

and Sonia and Masha and Spike (Nina) , Evita (The Mistress) all at MTC MainStage and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Chava) at STAGES St. Louis. She was most recently seen in the NYMF reading of *Play Like a Winner* at Playwrights Horizons. Special thanks to Kevin and Jimmy and to friends and family for all your support and love—especially Mom, Dad, Brandon and Chris.

PETER McCLUNG *(Father & Others)* is thrilled to be back at MTC! You may have "heard" him as Audrey II in MTC's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Peter was recently seen in the Off Broadway production of the musical *Baby*. He has performed in many regional theaters to include The Fulton, The John Engeman, Maine State Summer Theatre, White Plains Performing Arts, Arena Stage and others. He toured for years with the political satire group The Capitol Steps. Favorite roles include Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd,* Charlie in *August: Osage County,* Tony in *The Most Happy Fella,* Lazar in *Fiddler on the Roof,* Amos in *Chicago*, Lenny in *Of Mice and Men* and the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*. Tonight's show is for his "Mama Mary Lou" with love and gratitude for always knowing when to "let go." Love you Mom!

CHRIS McNIFF *(Yonkers & Others)* is excited to be coming full-circle with MTC, having grown up in Westport and trained with them since age seven! Chris appeared Off-Broadway in *Oh, Kay!* (Musicals Tonight) and the National Tour of *Memphis*. Regional credits include Arkansas Rep, Northern Stage and Artpark. BFA: Elon University. Thanks and love to Kevin and Jim! Also to ATB, MT14, friends and family. www.chrismcniff.com

ABIGIAL ROOT *(Agnes & Others)* was most recently seen in Downtown Cabaret's *Peter Pan Jr.* Other credits include Illinois Wesleyan's *A Children's Hour, Promenade* and *Country Club*. Abigail is a two time recipient of the CHSMTA for Outstanding Choreography for her work at Trumbull High School. BFA Music Theater Illinois Wesleyan University.

KATE SIMONE *(Louise)* MTC debut! NYC: workshop of *Sunset Boulevard* (Roundabout Theatre Co., dir. Michael Mayer). Regional: *South Pacific* (St. Louis MUNY), *Camelot* (Sacramento Music Circus) Vivienne in *Legally Blonde,* Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and Mary Jane in *Big River* (STONC). TV: *Happyish* (Showtime) and *Mistresses* (ABC). Kate is also on the voice faculty of MTC School of Performing Arts. BFA in Musical Theatre, Syracuse University. Proud AEA & SAG-AFTRA member. Many thanks to Kevin and Jimmy for making dreams come true! All her love to her family. www.katesimone.com

JODI STEVENS *(Mazeppa & Miss Cratchitt)* Broadway: *Urban Cowboy, Jekyll and Hyde* (Original Companies), Off Broadway: Marlene Dietrich in *Noel Coward and Friends* (Lincoln Center), Barry Manilow's *Harmony* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Dietrich and Chevalier* (St. Luke's Theatre). Other favorites: *Under Fire* (NYMF), *The Body Shop* (Westbeth), *Eliot Ness in Cleveland* (Harold Prince Workshop), *I Can Get It for You Wholesale* (York Theatre), *27 Wagons* (Intar Theatre). Regional: Nominated twice for Best Featured Actress in a Musical by the Connecticut Critics' Circle for her Velma VonTussle in *Hairspray* and Paulette in *Legally Blonde* (STONC). Also nominated by Connecticut Critics' Circle for Best Featured Actress in a Play

as Masha in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (MTC MainStage). *Sweeney Todd* (Gateway Playhouse), *Dracula: The Musical* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Heaven Help Us* (Denver Center), *Annie* (Goodspeed), *My Way* and *Love Letters* opposite husband Scott Bryce (MTC and White Heron Theatre). Films/TV: *Pervertigo, The Narrow Gate, 27 East, Conviction, Sex and the City* and *Central Park West*. Recordings: *Girl Talk* (Solo), *Rodgers and Leonhardt* (Guest), *Kurt Weill's Centennial Celebration* and *Johnny Mercer's DREAM* (Actors Fund of America). jodistevens.com

KEVIN CONNORS *(Director, Executive Artistic Director & Co-Founder)* Off-Broadway credits include *Play Like a Winner* (2016 NYMF), *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.* Regional credits include *The Fantasticks, Baby, It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Babes in Toyland, Bah Humbug!,* the Grand Re-Opening of the Palace Theatre starring Skitch Henderson, Louise Pitre, James Naughton and Joan Rivers. Mr. Connors began his career as a performer touring his own act with Bob Hope, Henny Youngman and Johnny Mathis. In 1987 he co-founded Music Theatre of Connecticut with Jim Schilling, and has since directed many of the MainStage productions including *Yours, Anne, It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Moss Hart Award Winner), *The Fantasticks, A Little Night Music, Edges, john & jen, Doubt, Evita, Little Shop of Horrors* and *Master Class.* He is a six-time Connecticut Critic's Circle Best Director nominee and the recipient of the CCC's Killen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Professional Theatre, as well as a Connecticut Legislative Citation for Execllence. As a composer he has penned the score for both *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* (with playwright Joe Landry and both published by Playscripts, Inc.). He served as Adjunct Professor at The Hartt School of Music/University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University, the University of Bridgeport, and at Musical Theatre Works in NYC, and created many of MTC's educational programs including the nationally-recognized College-Bound in the Performing Arts. Proud member of AEA, ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild. www.kevconnors.com

MICHAEL BLAGYS *(Lighting Design)* is a professional lighting designer from Bridgeport, Connecticut. He holds an MFA in Lighting Design from UMass Amherst and a B.A. in Theater Arts from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. His resume to date includes lighting designs for over 40 productions in 16 venues in over seven different states. He is delighted to be making his MTC debut on *Gypsy*. Enjoy the show.

THOMAS MARTIN CONROY *(Musical Director)* is happy to return to MTC, having served as music director for *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Evita* last year. Other recent credits include: the national tour of the 1940s big band review *In The Mood* (band leader and pianist); *Almost Heaven: John Denver's America* (director and music director) at the SSTI in Hilton Head, SC; *Violet* (music director) at Festival 56 in Princeton, IL; and *8-Track: Sounds of the '70s* (music director) at Shadowlands Stages in Ellenville, NY. He toured (as an actor/singer/dancer) nationally with *Grease, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Crazy For You* and *Cabaret*. He sang back-up for Bernadette Peters at the Orpheum in San Francisco and toured with the Paris Lido

in a specialty act. Tom earned his doctor of musical arts in composition at Rice University and a masters in philosophy at St. John's College Santa Fe.

JIM SCHILLING *(Managing Director, Co-Founder and Stage Manager)* co-founded MTC in 1987 and has served as teaching artist, Artist in Residence, director, general manager, actor, producer and currently as Director of the School of Performing Arts and MTC's Managing Director. Acting credits include John Guare's *A Day for Surprises, Upper Broadway* (Westport Country Playhouse), *Hamlet* (with Tony Roberts), *South Pacific* (with Jamie Farr) *The Fantasicks* (Rich Forum) and on MTC's MainStage in *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, A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* and last season's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.* Film credits include *Bullets Over Broadway, Cadillac Man, Soapdish* and as Sean Penn's double in *Dead Man Walking.* Jim holds a BFA degree in Musical Theatre from Otterbein College and was also trained at the Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Playwright's Horizons in New York City and Improv Asylum in Boston. Jim, a graduate of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts' AMICI Arts Management Program, 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 is a proud member of Actors Equity Association since 1980. Member AEA, SAG, AFTRA.

CARL TALLENT *(Scenic Designer)* is happy to return to MTC after designing many shows last season, starting with *The Santaland Diaries*. Carl is based out of NYC. Recent projects include working as lead props painter on Cirque du Soleil's Broadway endeavor, *Paramour*, and window displays at Bergdorf Goodman. Recent set designs include *Gumball Gang* at TADA Youth Theatre, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with Saint Bart's Players, *Cabaret* with Broadway Workshop, and *Cats* with Pentangle Arts in Woodstock, Vermont. Carl has also recently designed regionally at Saint Michael's Playhouse in Colchester VT and Cortland Repertory Theatre. He has worked extensively at Club RaYé, a jazz piano bar in Paris, as a designer, painter, and graphic artist. He is a teaching artist with Roundabout Theatre.

BECKY TIMMS *(Choreography)* is thrilled to be back at MTC, where she choreographed *Evita* last season. She has appeared in several Broadway and national tours including *Showboat* directed by Harold Prince, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* starring Donny Osmond, *Cats*, *West Side Story* directed by Jerome Robbins, *Chess, Pippin* and *Guys and Dolls.* Favorite roles include Lola in *Damn Yankees* and Catherine in *The Foreigner.* Becky was Associate Choreographer for *Thoroughly Modern Millie,* 2002 Tony Award-Winner for Best Choreography. She choreographed the 2012 Opening Ceremonies and Arthur Ashe Kids Day at the U.S. Open. Three of her favorites are *Shenandoah, Cabaret* and the world premiere of *Illyria*, a musical of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the New Jersey Shakespeare Theatre. She and husband, Paul Carlin, were founders and co-artistic directors of Northstage Theatre Company in Illinois. She is an assistant professor of Musical Theatre and Dance at Coastal Carolina

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

University and is on faculty at the Joffrey Ballet School. Becky's favorite production is her son, Payton.

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.

ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA) was founded in 1913, AEA represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

STAFF FOR *GYPSY*

Assistant Stage Manager . . . . . Kevin Connors
Dance Captain . . . . . Carissa Massaro
Techical Directon . . . . . Joshua Scherr
Props Mistress . . . . . Merrie Urquhart
Assistant Sound Operator . . . . . Maiya Urquhart
Set Construction . . . . . Seth & Victoria Gist
Cover Photo . . . . . Heather Hayes

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Managing Director . . . . . Jim Schilling
Marketing & PR Director . . . . . Joe Landry
Administrative Assistant . . . . . Sarah Pero
Resident Scenic Designer . . . . . Carl Tallent
Resident Lighting Designer . . . . . Michael Blagys
Resident Costume Designer . . . . . Diane Vanderkroef
Marketing/PR Associate . . . . . Heather Hayes
House Manager . . . . . Ellen M. Turner
MTC School Faculty . . . . . Alyson Cahill, Kevin Connors, John Flaherty, Jeri Kansas, Deborah Levy, Tracey Marble, Christopher Hudson Myers, Sarah Pero, Jim Schilling, Kate Simone
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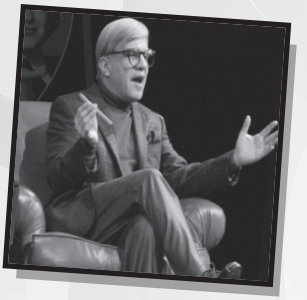

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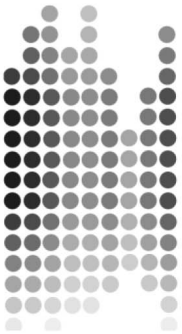

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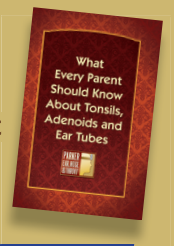

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