



NEWS RELEASE

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CREATIVE TEAMS CONFIRMED FOR ALL SIX GOODSPEED MUSICALS PRODUCTIONS IN 2018 SEASON

- Director **Don Stephenson** and Choreographer **Kelli Barclay** – *THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES* •
 - Director **Rob Ruggiero** and Choreographer **James Gray** – *LIONEL BART'S OLIVER!* •
 - Director **Hunter Foster** and Choreographer **Chris Bailey** – *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* •
 - Director **Sarna Lapine** and Choreographer **Patrick McCollum** – *YOU ARE HERE* •
 - Director **Erica Schmidt** and Choreographers **Jeff and Rick Kuperman** – *CYRANO* •
- Director **Hunter Foster** and Choreographer **Lisa Shriver** – *A CONNECTICUT CHRISTMAS CAROL* •

EAST HADDAM, CONN., FEBRUARY 23, 2018: Two-time Tony Award-winning [Goodspeed Musicals](http://GoodspeedMusicals.org) has assembled six exciting teams to helm the eclectic group of productions planned this season: an exuberant musical extravaganza, a glorious classic, a hilarious musical within a musical, an intimate musical tour-de-force, a timeless and unconventional new musical and the return of our popular holiday show with new surprises for all ages. Tickets for productions at The Goodspeed in 2018 are **on sale now**. Single tickets for the three shows scheduled for The Terris Theatre go on public sale March 26 at 10:00 a.m.

The first of three productions planned for [The Goodspeed](http://TheGoodspeed.org) in East Haddam, Conn. will be *The Will Rogers Follies A Life in Revue* - a spirited, Tony-winning Best Musical which will run from April 13 – June 21 [Official Press Opening May 2]. The production will be directed by **Don Stephenson** who helmed the Goodspeed productions of *Guys and Dolls* and *The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd*. Other recent credits include the production of *Titanic* at Lincoln Center; *Of Mice and Manhattan* for the Millennium Stage at Kennedy Center; *The Other Place* at the Alley Theatre; *A Comedy of Tenors* (BroadwayWorld Awards nom. Best Director of a Play), *The Producers*, *Vanya and Sonia and Marsha and Spike* and *Lend me a Tenor* at Paper Mill Playhouse; and *Buyer and Cellar* and *Noises Off* at Pittsburgh Public Theatre. Choreographer **Kelli Barclay** returns for her seventh production at Goodspeed Musicals

where past productions include *Anything Goes*; *Damn Yankees*; *Hello, Dolly!*, and *My One And Only*. Ms. Barclay has also choreographed City Center Encores! production of *Pipe Dream*, City Center's *20 Years of Encores!*, *Camelot in Concert* starring **Jeremy Irons**, *Himself and Nora* at the Minetta Lane Theater and the feature film *Made for Each Other*. The *Will Rogers Follies* will be sponsored by Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

Next up at The Goodspeed will be the first-ever Goodspeed production of *Lionel Bart's Oliver!*. The musical featuring Charles Dickens' beloved orphan will run from June 29 – September 8 [Official Press Opening July 18]. *Oliver!* will be directed by **Rob Ruggiero**, marking Ruggiero's eleventh production for Goodspeed Musicals. Favorites include *Rags*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Carousel*, *1776* and the successful new adaptation of *Show Boat*. Ruggiero has also directed the Broadway productions of *High* and *Looped*. *Oliver!* will be choreographed by **James Gray**. Mr. Gray recently choreographed the newly released movie *Humor Me* starring **Elliot Gould** and **Bebe Neuwirth** and was the associate choreographer for the Broadway productions of *Prince of Broadway*, *Bullets Over Broadway* and *A Christmas Story: The Musical*. James Gray's work was also featured in the Emmy Award-winning TV special *Mel Brooks: The AFI Lifetime Achievement Award*. *Oliver!* will be sponsored by Liberty Bank, Masonicare at Chester Village and The Shops at Mohegan Sun.

This fall at The Goodspeed *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a hilarious valentine to show tunes and show people, will run from September 21 – November 25 [Official Press Opening October 10]. This Tony Award-winning spoof will be directed by **Hunter Foster**. Foster currently serves as Artistic Associate at the Bucks County Playhouse where he has directed productions of *Company*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Buddy Holly Story* and *National Pastime*. Other directing credits include *Cabaret* and *My Fair Lady* at Cape Playhouse, *Grease* at North Carolina Theatre, *Spamalot* at Casa Mañana and *Million Dollar Quartet* for the Ogunquit Playhouse, Gateway Playhouse and Westchester Broadway Theatre. Joining him as choreographer will be **Chris Bailey** who previously choreographed *Chasing Rainbows* at The Goodspeed. Mr. Bailey has also choreographed *Into the Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *Tarzan*, *West Side Story*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Newsies* at MUNY. *The Drowsy Chaperone* will be sponsored by Amica Insurance and Robinson + Cole.

Nearby at [The Terris Theatre](#) in Chester, Conn., the intimate, hilarious and heart-breaking new musical *You Are Here* will run May 18 – June 10. *You Are Here* will be directed by **Sarna Lapine** who directed the acclaimed 2017 Broadway revival of *Sunday in the Park with George*. Ms. Lapine served as Associate Director for the Broadway production of *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and as Assistant Director for *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *South Pacific* and *The Light in The Piazza*, among others. *You Are Here* will be choreographed by **Patrick McCollum** whose credits include the Broadway and Atlantic Theater Company productions of *The Band's Visit*; the Broadway and Cherry Lane Theatre productions of *Oh, Hello!*; Second Stage's *Man From Nebraska*; TheatreWorks' *The Lightning Thief* and *Blueprint Specials* at Public Theater Under the Radar Festival onboard the Intrepid.

This summer *Cyrano*, a timeless story featuring new music by members of the Grammy Award-winning band **The National** will run August 3 – September 2. *Cyrano* will be directed by Princess Grace Award recipient **Erica Schmidt** whose previous directing credits include *Richard II* with **Robert Sean Leonard** at The Old Globe, Turgenev's *A Month In The Country* with **Peter Dinklage** and **Taylor Schilling** at Classic Stage Company, Dennis Kelly's *Taking Care of Baby* at Manhattan Theatre Club and the Obie Award winning *Invasion!*. Ms. Schmidt wrote and directed *All The Fine Boys* which was presented this past spring at The New Group featuring **Abigail Breslin** and **Isabelle Fuhrman**. Choreography for *Cyrano* will be by **Jeff** and **Rick Kuperman** who recently choreographed a New Year's Eve

performance for **Phish** at Madison Square Garden; Frank Wildhorn's *The Count Of Monte Cristo* in Saint Petersburg, Russia; Broadway Asia's immersive *Peter Pan* in Beijing, China; *Orpheus in the Berkshires* at the Williamstown Theater Festival and the New York Times Critics' Pick *The Light Princess* at A.R.T./New Victory. National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu recently approved Goodspeed Musicals for an Art Works grant for the further development of *Cyrano*.

Closing out the season will be the further-developed *A Connecticut Christmas Carol*, an adaptation of the Dickens holiday classic spiced with the flavor of the Nutmeg State which will run November 30 – December 30. *A Connecticut Christmas Carol* will be directed by Hunter Foster, who directed the 2017 production of *A Connecticut Christmas Carol* and *Summer of '42*, both at The Terris Theatre. The production will be choreographed by **Lisa Shriver** whose Broadway credits include the 2012 Broadway revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by **Des McAnuff**, *Ring of Fire*, *The Story of My Life* by **Bartram & Hill** and *The Farnsworth Invention* by **Aaron Sorkin**. She is also credited as an assistant choreographer on over ten other Broadway productions including *The Producers*, *Titanic* and *Oklahoma*. Lisa has been fortunate to work with other such visionary directors as **James Lapine**, **Richard Maltby, Jr.**, **Roger Rees** and **Tony Walton**. In addition to choreographing the Goodspeed productions of *The 60s Project*, *Where's Charley?* and last season's *A Connecticut Christmas Carol*, Ms. Shriver has choreographed at The Public, The La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, The McCarter Theatre, Signature Theatre, Westport Playhouse and New York Theatre Workshop, among many others.

Tickets for productions at The Goodspeed in 2018 are **on sale now**.

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 26, 2018, *single tickets* for the three productions at The Terris Theatre may be purchased by visiting The Goodspeed Box Office, open seven days a week at 6 Main Street, East Haddam, Conn.; by calling **860.873.8668**; or on-line at goodspeed.org. Special ticket packages are still available: see three shows at The Goodspeed OR The Terris Theatre for only \$108 or see all six shows for just \$216. Contact the Box Office for details. Ticket cost may vary by performance; please call for current pricing. All prices are subject to change.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAMS:

CHRIS BAILEY (Choreographer: *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE*) *Chasing Rainbows* (The Goodspeed), *The Entertainer* with Kenneth Branagh (*West End London*), *The New Yorkers* (City Center Encores), *Newsies* (MUNY), *Because of Winn Dixie* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *1776* (City Center Encores), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Roundabout), *Assassins* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *The Kennedy Center Honors*, and the 2013 Tony Awards. *Regional credits include* *Into the Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *Tarzan*, *West Side Story*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (MUNY); and *Dancing Shadows* (Seoul Arts Center), *Shrek The Musical* US Tour, *Candide* (Hyogo Performing Arts Centre, Japan), *Dancing Shadows* (Seoul Arts Center, South Korea). Film: *Ted 2*, *Peter Pan Live* for NBC, Kenneth Branagh's *Cinderella*, and *A Million Ways to Die in the West*. As associate choreographer: *Promises, Promises*; *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*; *Evita*; and *Cry Baby* (Broadway); and *Guys and Dolls*, *Evita*, and *Once in a Lifetime* (West End).

KELLI BARCLAY (Choreographer: *THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES*) *Himself and Nora* (Minetta Lane Theater), City Center Encores! production of *Pipe Dream*, City Center's *20 Years of Encores!*, *Camelot in Concert* and *The Oscar Hammerstein Awards Saluting Carol Channing*. Broadway Lab of *40 Naked Women, a Monkey and Me*. Goodspeed Musicals: *Anything Goes*; *Damn Yankees* (Connecticut Critics Circle Award nomination for Best Choreography); *Hello, Dolly!* (CTCC Award nomination for Best Choreography); *My One And Only* (CTCC Award Winner for Best Choreography); *How to Succeed in Business...* (CTCC Award nomination); and *Hello, My Baby!* at The Terris Theatre. Other: Eugene O'Neill Cabaret Conference,

Singin' In the Rain at Gateway Playhouse and St. Louis MUNY; **42nd Street** at Arts Center of Coastal Carolina; **Irving Berlin's White Christmas** at Ogunquit Playhouse. Feature film: *Made for Each Other*, Assoc. Chore. **Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular** in Detroit MI. NYMTF : Michael Holland's **Hurricane the Musical** and David Shire's **My History of Marriage**; Kelli helped Goodspeed design and develop their Musical Theater Dance Intensive, which has been successfully ongoing for three years. Her mastery of every style of dance enabled Ms. Barclay to serve on the faculty for numerous dance organizations. Honorary Award by Dance Educators of America for contribution in dance world. Many Original ballets: **Once Upon A Wish** and **Angels Among Us** starring NY Times best-selling author Rev. Alma Daniel. Faculty: American Ballet Theater's Intensive in NYC. Associate/ Asst. Choreographer Broadway credits: *Ain't Broadway Grand* (Tony nomination Best Choreography), Rodgers and Hammerstein's **State Fair**, **42nd Street** (2001 Award winning Revival, Tony nomination Best Choreography) and *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (Tony nomination Best Choreography) Kelli has set **42nd Street** in Holland, New Zealand and Germany as well as the current National Tour.

HUNTER FOSTER (Director: *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* and *A CONNECTICUT CHRISTMAS CAROL*) A director, writer and actor, he was the librettist for two new musicals that made their world premiere at The Terris Theatre: *Summer of '42* and **The Circus in Winter**. Mr. Foster directed last season's developmental production of the original musical *A Connecticut Christmas Carol*. He is also an Artistic Associate at the Bucks County Playhouse, where he has directed **Clue**, *Guys and Dolls*, *Company*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Buddy Holly Story* (2016 & 2017), *National Pastime*, **The Rocky Horror Show** (2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017), *Summer of '42* and **It's a Wonderful Life**. He most recently directed the world premiere of the new musical **One Hit Wonder** for the University of Michigan. Other directing credits include **The Foreigner**, *Cabaret*, *My Fair Lady* (Cape Playhouse); *Grease* (North Carolina Theatre); *Spamalot* (Casa Mañana); and he has directed productions of *Million Dollar Quartet* for The Paper Mill Playhouse, Geva Theatre, Ogunquit Playhouse, Gateway Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Center Rep. and the Westchester Broadway Theatre. Other book writing credits include the musicals **Jasper in Deadland** (Prospect Theatre, 5th Ave.), **Clyde and Bonnie: A Folktale** (New York Musical Theatre Festival, Aurora Theatre), **The Hollow** (Signature Theatre) and **Blue Ridge Sky**. Hunter is a graduate of the University of Michigan. HunterFosterOfficial.com

JAMES GRAY (Choreographer: *OLIVER!*) James recently choreographed the newly-released movie *Humor Me* starring **Elliot Gould** and **Bebe Neuwirth**. He was the associate choreographer for **FATWA: The Musical**, the show-within-the-show starring **Lin Manuel Miranda**, **F.Murray Abraham** and **Larry David** for HBO's **Curb Your Enthusiasm**. James recently returned from Tokyo, where he choreographed the TOHO Theatre group's newest musical production. Also in Tokyo, James was the associate choreographer/resident for the world premiere of **Prince of Broadway** working closely with the legendary director **Harold Prince**. James was thrilled to work again on the hit Broadway production of *Prince of Broadway* at Manhattan Theatre Club. New York. James has worked closely with **Susan Stroman** as her dance captain/associate choreographer/director and resident on many projects including *The Producers*, the world premiere of **Young Frankenstein**, (recreating the direction/staging for the National Tours), the original Broadway production of *Bullets Over Broadway* as well as the **Mandy Patinkin** and **Taylor Mac** two-hander **The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville** at the American Repertory Theater. He was associate choreographer on the original Broadway production of *A Christmas Story, the Musical*, which featured a score by the Oscar-, Tony- and Grammy Award-winning composer/lyricist team **Pasek** and **Paul**. James directed and choreographed the MITF hit **Peg O' My Heart** (Best Musical Award). James is the founder and creative director of Audition Truth, a workshop which helps prepare musical theater performers for the high-pressure world of Broadway auditions. JamesGray.biz

JEFF & RICK KUPERMAN (Choreographers: *CYRANO*) Recent choreography highlights include a NYE performance for Phish (Madison Square Garden), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (Saint Petersburg, Russia), Broadway Asia's immersive *Peter Pan* (Beijing, China), *Orpheus in the Berkshires* (Williamstown Theater Festival) and *The Light Princess* (A.R.T./New Victory, NY Times Critics' Pick). As directors: **Smile** (FringeNYC), **Roll!** (Ars Nova), **The 39 Steps** (PST) and **Dispossessed** (HERE). Their film work has screened at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, HollyShorts and online on Entertainment Weekly, NPR and The Huffington Post. The brothers are third degree black belts in Kenpo Karate, experienced fight directors, and grads of Princeton and Harvard. kupermanbrothers.com

SARNA LAPINE (Director: *YOU ARE HERE*) Ms. Lapine is a freelance director based in New York. Most recently, she directed the critically acclaimed Broadway revival of *Sunday in the Park with George* starring **Jake Gyllenhaal** and **Annaleigh Ashford** and the upcoming production of Kate Hamill's **Little Women** (Primary Stages). Additional credits include **Dirty Dancing** (US National Tour); *Sondheim on Sondheim* for the Boston Pops and the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Associate Director, The

National Theatre's **War Horse** (North America & Japan Tour); Director, National Tour of Lincoln Center Theater's *South Pacific* and resident director on the First National *South Pacific* Tour. On the concert front, Lapine has developed and directed projects for Encores! (City Center), the Boston Pops, Umeda Arts Theatre in Japan, the 92 Street Y and the Bucks County Playhouse, and has co-conceived and directed critically acclaimed cabaret shows for **Paolo Szot** (Café Carlyle) and the actress **Emily Bergl** (54Below and Café Carlyle). Select directing credits: **Other Desert Cities** (Theatre Aspen, Henry Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play), **Tribes** (Segal Centre of Montreal), **Hope and Gravity** by **Michael Hollinger** (Creede Repertory Theatre), **Sunday in the Park with George** (Short North Stage), **Waiting for Lefty** and **The Year of Magical Thinking** (Intiman Theatre). Lapine has directed readings at Ensemble Studio Theatre, New Dramatists, BMI, Ars Nova, New York Theater Workshop, The LARK, Stella Adler, The Araca Group, Boomerang Theatre and Dixon Place, among others. She has been a teaching artist at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute and Fordham University.

PATRICK MCCOLLUM (Choreographer: *YOU ARE HERE*) *The Band's Visit* (Broadway and Atlantic Theater Company); *Oh, Hello!* (Broadway and Cherry Lane Theatre); *Man From Nebraska* (Second Stage); *The Lightning Thief* (TheatreWorks); *Blueprint Specials* (Public Theater Under the Radar Festival onboard the Intrepid); **Rain** (Old Globe); **Unknown Soldier** (Williamstown Theatre Festival); **Wilderness** (Abrons Arts Center); **The Legend of Georgia McBride** (Dorset). On Broadway: **Angels in America**, **The Last Ship**, **Peter and the Starcatcher** and **Rocky** (Associate Choreographer); **Wicked** (Dance Supervisor); Off-Broadway: **Murder Ballad** (Manhattan Theatre Club, Associate Choreographer); **Permission** (MCC, Movement Consultant).

ROB RUGGERIO (Director: *OLIVER!*) is a freelance professional director whose work has earned him national recognition for both plays and musicals. Ruggiero returns to Goodspeed Musicals this fall to direct his 11th Goodspeed production. He previously directed highly successful productions of *1776*, **Big River**, *Camelot*, **Annie Get Your Gun**, *Carousel*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *La Cage aux Folles* and a new adaptation of *Show Boat* which premiered at Goodspeed Musicals; it is now being licensed by the R&H Organization and has had a recent production in London's West End directed by **Daniel Evans**. In 2015, Ruggiero had the opportunity to direct a Greek production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in Athens, Greece. Ruggiero's Broadway credits include *High* (starring **Kathleen Turner**) and *Looped* (starring **Valerie Harper** in a Tony-nominated performance). Both productions toured nationally. He conceived and directed the original musical revue entitled **Make Me A Song: The Music of William Finn**. The Off-Broadway production received nominations for both the Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award. In 2008 an original cast recording was released and the London premiere was produced at the New Players Theater. Ruggiero made his Off-Broadway debut with **All Under Heaven**, which also starred Valerie Harper. This production toured regionally and had a critically-acclaimed run in Los Angeles. In 2005, Ruggiero conceived and directed the world premiere musical portrait of **Ella Fitzgerald** entitled **Ella** (starring **Tina Fabrique**). A popular and critical success, *Ella* has been seen at over 24 regional theaters from 2005-2010 before beginning a National Tour in the Fall of 2010. His work has been recognized with numerous awards including multiple Kevin Kline Awards, Broadway Works Awards, Joseph Jefferson Awards and Connecticut Critic Circle Awards. His work has been seen at major regional theaters around the country, including Actor's Theater of Louisville, The Asolo Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Barrington Stage Company, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Playhouse, Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage, The Muny, Northlight Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and San Jose Repertory Theatre, among others. He has been affiliated with TheaterWorks in Hartford, Connecticut since 1993 and has been the Producing Artistic Director since 2012. At TheaterWorks he has directed well over 50 productions and been the driving force behind the development of new work. Recently Ruggiero directed TheaterWorks' critically acclaimed **Constellations**, the award-winning **Next To Normal** and a premiere production of **Relativity** starring **Richard Dreyfuss**.

ERICA SCHMIDT (Director: *CYRANO*) Ms. Schmidt's directing credits include *Richard II* with Robert Sean Leonard (The Old Globe); *All The Fine Boys* (The New Group, wrote the play and directed); Turgenev's *A Month In The Country* with Peter Dinklage and Taylor Schilling (Classic Stage Company); Dennis Kelly's *Taking Care Of Baby* (Manhattan Theatre Club); Jonas Hassen Khemiri's **I Call My Brothers** and the Obie Award winning *Invasion!* (both for The Play Company); **Humor Abuse** (Manhattan Theatre Club, also co-creator/writer, Lucille Lortel Award); **Rent** (Tokyo); Moliere's **Imaginary Invalid**, Chekhov's **Uncle Vanya**, Gilbert and Sullivan's **The Sorcerer** and Copland's **The Tender Land** (all at Bard Summer Scape); *Carnival* (Paper Mill Playhouse); Quincy Long's **People Be Heard** (Playwrights Horizons); Gary Mitchell's **Trust** (The Play Company, Callaway Award nominee); **As You Like It** (The Public Theater/NYSF, chashama, New York International Fringe Festival Winner for Best Direction); **Debbie Does Dallas** (wrote the adaptation and directed Off-Broadway for The Araca Group); **Spanish Girl** (Second Stage Uptown). Ms. Schmidt was a Princess Grace Award recipient in 2001.

LISA SHRIVER (Choreographer: *A CONNECTICUT CHRISTMAS CAROL*) Lisa recently choreographed the London premiere of Fiasco Theatre Company's *Into the Woods* at the Menier Chocolate Factory. *Into the Woods* was previously presented off-Broadway through the Roundabout Theatre, earning the 2015 Lucille Lortel Award for Best Revival. In addition, Lisa earned a Lucille Lortel nomination for Best Choreography. Her Broadway credits include the 2012 Broadway revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by Des McAnuff, *Ring of Fire*, *The Story of My Life* and *The Farnsworth Invention* by Aaron Sorkin. She is also credited as an assistant choreographer on over ten other Broadway productions including *The Producers*, *Titanic* and *Oklahoma!*. Regional work includes several productions at The Stratford Shakespeare Festival including *Caesar and Cleopatra* and *The Tempest* (both with **Christopher Plummer**), *The Scottish Play*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, all directed by Des McAnuff. In addition to Mr. McAnuff, she has been fortunate to work with other such visionary directors as James Lapine, Richard Maltby, Jr., Roger Rees and Tony Walton. She has choreographed at The Public, The La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, The McCarter Theatre, Signature Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Westport Playhouse and New York Theatre Workshop. Lisa choreographed Phish's New Year's Eve concert at Madison Square Garden for three years in a row. She has also directed and choreographed several shows for Busch Gardens Williamsburg. Recently she choreographed the revisions of two existing shows for Disney Cruise Line. In addition to her theatre work, Lisa Shriver has worked extensively in film and TV. Her choreography credits include the Oscar winning film *A Beautiful Mind*, the critically acclaimed HBO film *Hysterical Blindness* starring **Uma Thurman** and **Juliette Lewis** and the motion-capture film *A Christmas Carol* starring **Jim Carrey** and directed by **Robert Zemeckis**. She was also the Assistant Choreographer on Mr. Zemeckis' *The Polar Express*, *Mixed Nuts* with **Steve Martin** and the dance cult hit *Center Stage*. She choreographed the Netflix presentation of *A Very Murray Christmas* starring **Bill Murray**, **George Clooney** and **Miley Cyrus** (directed by **Sofia Coppola**), the Season 3 Finale of *Broad City* and an upcoming episode of *The Detour* on TBS. Lisa holds a BA in History and a BFA in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University. She is a member of SDC and Canadian Equity.

DON STEPHENSON (Director: *THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES*) directed *Titanic* (Lincoln Center), *Broadway Classics* (Carnegie Hall), *Of Mice And Manhattan* (Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center), *The Other Place* (The Alley Theatre), *A Comedy of Tenors* (BroadwayWorld nom. Best Director of a Play), *The Producers*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Lend Me a Tenor* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *The Roar Of The Greasepaint -The Smell Of The Crowd-* (BroadwayWorld nom. Best Director of a Musical) and *Guys and Dolls* (Goodspeed Musicals), *Buyer And Cellar* and *Noises Off* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre), *How To Succeed...* and *Sister Act* (Marriott Theatre), *The Cottage* (Theatre Aspen), *I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers* (TheaterWorks/Hartford), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Bay Street Theatre, Broadway World nom. Best Director of a Play), *Titanic* (MUNY Opera, Westchester Broadway Theatre and the Hangar Theatre, Broadway World nom. Best Director of a Musical), *Struck* (New Jersey Rep, BroadwayWorld nom. Best Director of a Play), *Deathtrap*, *Noises Off*, and *The 39 Steps* (Flat Rock Playhouse), *The Mystery Of King Tut* and *Skippyjon Jones* (Theatreworks/USA) and *The Great Unknown* for The New York Theatre Festival. He directed the critically acclaimed productions of *Oleanna*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and the hit musical comedy *Doctors and Diseases* at the historic Barter Theatre. Other New York directing credits include *Attack Of the Elvis Impersonators* (Theatre Row), *A Charles Dickens Christmas* (Urban Stages), *Buck Simple* (Garrick Gaities), *When Pigs Fly* (Kaufman Theatre), *Golden Voices* (Symphony Space), *Old Flames* (Theatre Studio Inc.) and the workshop production of *My Time Of Day: The Letters, Lyrics, and Music of Frank Loesser*. He has directed productions of *The Desperate Hours* and *Through All Kinds of Weather*, both at the Clarence Brown Theatre and *Sleeping Beauty* at American Stage Festival.

MORE ABOUT GOODSPEED'S 2018 PRODUCTIONS:

***The Will Rogers Follies* April 13 – June 21 at THE GOODSPEED**

Shake hands with the heartwarming humorist who spun a rope, poked fun at headlines and never met a man he didn't like. The rags-to-riches story of America's beloved stage, screen and radio star bursts to life as a Ziegfeld Follies-style extravaganza. Family, fame and fate are center stage in Will's rise from obscurity to stardom. Along the way he's arm-in-arm with vivacious showgirls and a slew of cowboys. Curtain up on the Tony Award-winning Best Musical that captures the American spirit at its up-tempo best.

Book by **Peter Stone** | Music Composed and Arranged by **Cy Coleman**
Lyrics by **Betty Comden & Adolph Green**
Inspired by the words of Will and Betty Rogers

Directed by **Don Stephenson** / Choreographed by **Kelli Barclay**

You Are Here May 18 – June 10 at THE TERRIS THEATRE

July 20, 1969... a man walks on the moon... and Diana, a Chicago housewife, walks out of her comfortable suburban life. Suddenly alone in a fast-changing world, she finds a series of unexpected encounters can turn one small step into a giant, life-changing leap. This intimate, hilarious and heart-breaking, tour-de-force musical will leave you cheering for the resilience of the human spirit.

Music & Lyrics by **Neil Bartram**
Book by **Brian Hill**

Directed by **Sarna Lapine** / Choreographed by **Patrick McCollum**

Lionel Bart's Oliver! June 29– September 8 at THE GOODSPEED

Charles Dickens' beloved orphan makes his Goodspeed debut in the hope-filled musical set in the dark shadows of Victorian London. Bounced from workhouse to forced labor, Oliver Twist escapes to the streets where he meets Fagin, the Artful Dodger and a band of child pickpockets. Will he find love, home and happiness before it's too late? Consider yourself part of the family with the colorful international smash that gave the world "Where Is Love?," "Food! Glorious Food!" and "As Long As He Needs Me."

Book, Music and Lyrics by **Lionel Bart**

Directed by **Rob Ruggiero** / Choreographed by **James Gray**

Cyrano August 3 – September 2 at THE TERRIS THEATRE

The legendary romance about a proud and impassioned poet who ghost writes love letters is rekindled in a timeless and unconventional new musical. Cyrano agrees to woo his true love, Roxanne, on behalf of another in this classic tale of unrequited love. New music by members of the Grammy Award-winning indie alternative band The National drives this story of mistaken identity, selfless courage and buried desire.

Adapted by **Erica Schmidt** from *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand
Music by **Aaron and Bryce Dessner** of The National
Lyrics by **Matt Berninger** of The National and **Carin Besser**

Directed by **Erica Schmidt** / Choreographed by **Jeff & Rick Kuperman**

The Drowsy Chaperone September 21 – November 25 at THE GOODSPEED

In this hilarious valentine to show tunes and show people, a forgotten Jazz Age musical comes to life in the living room of a diehard theatre fan. As he eagerly spins his favorite cast album, a fizzy vintage show suddenly appears, exploding with song, dance and pure entertainment. Our quirky narrator fills the plot holes, with laugh-out-loud results. Packed with show-stopping numbers and larger-than-life characters, here's a Tony Award-winning spoof that will have everyone falling in love with zany musical comedy!

Music & Lyrics by **Lisa Lambert** and **Greg Morrison**
Book by **Bob Martin** and **Don McKellar**

Directed by **Hunter Foster** / Choreographed by **Chris Bailey**

A Connecticut Christmas Carol November 30 – December 30 at THE TERRIS THEATRE

Some of the most beloved storytellers in Connecticut history come alive for a yuletide gathering you won't forget. Famed actor and local legend William Gillette leaves his castle on the Connecticut River to adapt Dickens' holiday classic in the 1920s. Local heroes Mark Twain, P.T. Barnum and more make spirited appearances opposite Gillette's Scrooge in a highly theatrical twist on a family favorite. Custom-made for Goodspeed with all-original music, here's a tuneful, heartfelt confection spiced with enough Nutmeg State flavor to sweeten your season.

Book by **L J Fecho**
Music and Lyrics by **Michael O'Flaherty**

Directed by **Hunter Foster** / Choreographed by **Lisa Shriver**

Under the leadership of Executive Director Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the preservation, development and advancement of musical theatre and is the first theatre in the nation to receive two Tony Awards (for outstanding achievement). Goodspeed produces three musicals each season at The Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn., and additional productions at The Terris Theatre in Chester, Conn., which was opened in 1984 for the development of new musicals. Goodspeed also maintains The Scherer Library of Musical Theatre and The Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical Theatre. Goodspeed gratefully acknowledges the support of United Airlines, the official airline of Goodspeed Musicals; the official audio sponsor Sennheiser; and official auto sponsor Hoffman Audi. Goodspeed is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development with support from the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

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