Synopsis of Scenes & Musical Numbers
Between 1887 and 1927 along the Mississippi River and in Chicago

**Act One**

**Scene 1, The levee at Natchez on the Mississippi, 1887**
- Cotton Blossom .......................................................... Stevedores, Gals, Show Boat Troupe
- Captain Andy’s Ballyhoo ............................................. Cap’n Andy, Parthy & Show Boat Troupe
- Where’s the Mate for Me ............................................. Ravenel & Magnolia
- Only Make Believe (Reprise) ...................................... Ravenel & Magnolia
- Ol’ Man River (Reprise) .............................................. Joe & Stevedores

**Scene 2, The Kitchen Pantry on the Cotton Blossom**
- Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man ......................................... Julie, Queenie, Magnolia, Joe & Ensemble

**Scene 3, The Auditorium & Stage on the Cotton Blossom**
- Mis’ry’s Comin’ Aroun’ .............................................. Queenie
- Ol’ Man River (Reprise) .............................................. Joe

**Scene 4, The Fore-deck of the Cotton Blossom, three weeks later**
- Life Upon the Wicked Stage ....................................... Joe & Girls

**Scene 5, The Upper Deck of the Cotton Blossom, that night**
- You Are Love ................................................................. Ravenel & Magnolia

**Scene 6, The levee at Greenville, the next morning**
- Finale ................................................................................ Company

**Act Two**

**Scene 1, Various Locations on the River & in Chicago, 1892-1899**
- ’Til Good Luck Comes My Way ..................................... Ravenel & Gamblers
- Why Do I Love You? .................................................. Magnolia & Ravenel
- Mis’ry’s Comin’ Aroun’ (Reprise) ................................. Queenie & Ensemble
- ’Til Good Luck Comes My Way (Reprise) ..................... Ravenel & Gamblers
- Why Do I Love You? (Reprise) ..................................... Magnolia

**Scene 2, A Chicago Boardinghouse**
- Alma Redemptoris Mater ............................................. Nuns

**Scene 3, St. Agatha’s Convent, the same time**
- Bill .................................................................................. Julie

**Scene 4, The Trocadero Nightclub, a Rehearsal two weeks later**
- Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man (Reprise) ......................... Magnolia

**Scene 5, A Chicago Street**

**Scene 6, The Trocadero Nightclub, New Year’s Eve, 1899**
- Goodbye My Lady Love ............................................... Ellie & Frank
- After the Ball .................................................................. Magnolia & Partygoers

**Scene 7, Kitchen Pantry of the Cotton Blossom, 1927**
- Ol’ Man River (Reprise) .............................................. Joe

**Scene 8, The Deck of the Cotton Blossom**
- You Are Love (Reprise) ................................................. Ravenel
- Finale ................................................................................ Company

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**WHO’S WHO**

**MADELEINE BERRY** (Young Kim)

was last seen on Broadway during her visits to her Daddy at the Booth Theater. She appeared last summer as Princess Millie in Pinocchio and as a Harem Girl in Aladdin. She appeared in her first grade play as a Farmer and was very well received in the role of the Mosquito in her 2nd grade play. Madeleine feels uniquely qualified to play the daughter to Ms. Berry’s Magnolia as she is actually Ms. Berry’s real life daughter. She is also big sister to brothers Jesse and Sam.

**BEN DAVIS** (Ravenal)

recently made his Lincoln Center debut opposite Kelli O’Hara and Victor Garber as Brom Brockey in Knickerbocker Holiday (recorded by Sh-K-Boom). Broadway credits include A Little Night Music (Mr. Lindquist, u/s Carl Magnus, Fredrik), Les Misérables (Javert, Enjolras), Thoroughly Modern Millie (Trevor Graydon), Baz Luhrmann’s La Boheme (Marcello, 2003 Tony Honor) Tour: Spamanot (Gaihah), Regional: 110 in the Shade at Pasadena Playhouse (File), Mame (Older Patrick), and Bernstein’s Mass at The Hollywood Bowl. Concerts with LA Philharmonic, Indianapolis Symphony. Film/TV: Papageno in Mozart’s The Magic Flute directed by Kenneth Branagh, “Numb3rs.” All this because of Annie. Visit www.benjaminjardyv.com.

**ANDREA FRIERSON** (Queenie)

Broadway: Once on This Island (Ezrule, original cast), Marie Christine, Juan Darlen (both at Lincoln Center Theater), Bring in ‘Da Noise/Funk (Da Singer), The Lion King (Rafiki). For Colored Girls... (original Broadway production), A Christmas Carol at Madison Square Garden (original cast). Regional: The Queen in Cymbeline (Utah Shakespeare Festival), Dr. Charlotte in Falsettoland (Hartford Stage Company), Aretha Franklin/Tina Turner in Beehive! (Helen Hayes Award). Television: “Allegra's Window” (Series regular, Nickelodeon), “Star Search” (5-time winner/semi-finalist), and most recently, “Louie” on FX. Andrea is a Dramatists Guild Fellow and is currently writing and illustrating an actor’s guide survival.

**DAVID ARON DAMANE** (Joe)


**DANNY GARDNER** (Frank) last seen in Parallel Exit’s Drama Desk nominated show Room 17B at 59E59 in NYC. Other favorite credits include:Half a Sixpence, High Button Shoes, Singin’ in the Rain (all three at Goodspeed Opera House); Chuck Baxter in Promises, Promises

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(1995 nom.); New York Song & Dance Company’s tour of the Middle East; Time Step at the New Victory Theater; Thoroughly Modern Millie at Sacramento Music Circus; Superhero Clubhouse’s production of Mercury; and the National Tour of 42nd Street. Thanks to Noah and Rob for trusting me and special thanks to my family and Alekai www.dannygardner.com.

GOODSPEED MUSICALS

dear and perfect friends, 500, JD Sobol/RPM, Film: Theater Company, and Light Opera Works.

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(Anytime Annie); frequently with Chicago’s Drury Lane, American Theater Company, and Light Opera Works. Film: The Dark Knight, Audrey the Trainwreck, Miss Ohio, Quietly On By. Jennifer is a native Oklahoman and owes everything to her glorious family. Love and thanks for/to: answered prayers, dear and perfect friends, 500, JD Sobol/RPM LA, Sam and Stewart Chicago, Paul, Rob, and the Goodspeed team.

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KAREN MURPHY* (Parthy) is a member of Actors’ Equity, the Union of Professional Actors. She recently understudied Angela Lansbury and Elaine Stritch on Broadway in A Little Night Music. Other Broadway credits: 9 to 5 (Margaret, the “atta girl” drunk), All Shook Up, 42nd Street, Titanic, A Christmas Carol, King David, The Most Happy Fella (NYC Opera). Off Broadway: My Vaudeville Man (Drama Desk nomination); Showtime, L’Amour, The Merrier; Zombie Prom (Encore Taking Off Award, Drama League nomination); Forbidden Broadway. Regional: Urinetown; The Visit; Hello, Dolly!; Damn Yankees; Tin-Typhies. Tours: White Christmas, The Wizard of Oz, Les Misérable. www.torchgoddess.com.

LENNY WOLPE* (Captain Andy) Goodspeed: Little Johnny Jones, The Baker’s Wife (Baker). Broadway: Wicked (The Wizard), The Drowsy Chaperone (original Feldzeig), The Sound of Music (Max), Mayor (Koch), Copperfield, Into the Light, Onward Victoria. National Tours: Wicked, Little Shop of Horrors, Guys and Dolls, South Pacific; …Forum. Regional: Paper Mill — Baker’s Wife, Gypsy (Herbie), Tale of Allergist’s Wife; Pasadena Playhouse — Radio Gals (Dramalogue Award), A Class Act; Westport — She Loves Me; Repriese LA — Fiorello, Of Thee I Sing; Hollywood Bowl — Music Man; McCarter — Stepping Out; Pioneer — Black Comedy; TUTS — Into the Woods (Baker); Producers (Max); Fiddler (Tevye) in six productions. TV: series regular on My Mind. Guest Star on nearly 100 shows from “LA Law,” “ER,” “Six Feet Under,” to “Golden Girls,” “Roseanne,” “L&O SVU,” and “Chappelle’s Show.”

PAULE ABOITE (Ensemble) is excited to revisit the Purial of Show Boat! Graduating from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Ms. Aboite made her NYC debut as Angelina in Harlem on My Mind. Credits include: Cheryl in Roost, Porgy and Bess, Bare: A Pop Opera, Bat Boy, 6221, and Venus.

JENNIFER KNOX* (Ellie) Goodspeed debut! National Tour: Cats (Demeter), Regional: Sugar (Sugar), Oklahoma! (Ado Annie), The Producers (Ulla), Damn Yankees (Lola), 42nd Street (Anytime Annie); frequently with Chicago’s Drury Lane, American Theater Company, and Light Opera Works. Film: The Dark Knight, Audrey the Trainwreck, Miss Ohio, Quietly On By. Jennifer is a native Oklahoman and owes everything to her glorious family. Love and thanks for/to: answered prayers, dear and perfect friends, 500, JD Sobol/RPM LA, Sam and Stewart Chicago, Paul, Rob, and the Goodspeed team.

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LESLEY MARGHERITA* (Julie) 2009 Laurence Olivier Award for Zorro the Musical on London’s West End. A California native; trained at UCLA. Starred in TV series “Fame.” Laurence Olivier Award for Gypsy (Lola), Oklahoma! (Sugar), Oklahoma! (Cherie), Oklahoma! (Ensemble). Many thanks to God, my family, and Goodspeed! AMDA 08!

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KYLE E. BAIRD (Ensemble) This Connecticut native is thrilled to be part of this amazing production of Show Boat. NYC credits included Urinetown. Regional credits include Hairspray (Seaweed), 8 Track: The Sounds of the 70’s, High School Musical (Chad). Many thanks to God, my family, and Goodspeed! AMDA 08!

ELIZABETH ANN BERG (Lottie, Ensemble) is returning to Goodspeed after performing in the 2011 Festival of New Artists as Nelly Gold in the new Stitt/Stenklüner musical Hello! My Baby. Regional credits: Into the Woods the starring role of Rachel York (Lucinda); Company (April); A Class Act (Sophie); Show Boat (Magnolia); tick, tick… BOOM! (Susan); and Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman). BFA Boston Conservatory.


ELISCH KINNON* (Dottie, Ensemble) is thrilled to be back at Goodspeed after performing in 42nd Street (Anytime Annie), Half a Sixpence (Victoria), and Happy Days (Swing, Pinky u/s). Favorite credits: Crazy For You (Patsy), Thoroughly Modern Millie National Tour (Alice), 42nd Street Asian Tour, Smokey Joe’s Café (Debra), and The Full Monty (Susan). Much love and thanks go to Justin and to her family.

DENISE LUTE* (Mrs. O’Brien, Mother Superior, Old Lady, Ensemble) Film, television, and theater veteran, Show Boat marks her (fingers crossed!) musical theater debut (she’s the tenor in a skirt!). Recent credits: Anna Christie (Tony nominated director Wilson Milam), Fa La La, Lake Hollywood, BUG. Regional credits include Westport Playhouse and Williamstown (director Joanne Woodward), Kennedy Center (director Arthur Penn).

A’LISA D. MILES* (Ensemble) is thrilled to return to Goodspeed! NYC credits: The Flood (The River), Prospect Theater Company. Regional credits include: Big River, Goodspeed; Dessa Rose (Dorcas), New Repertory Theatre; Change (Washing Machine/Moon), Stage; Ain’t Misbehavin’ (Nell), Theatre, Trinity Rep; Sunshine Boys (with Dick Van Patten), Foothills Theater Company. TV: “Boardwalk Empire” (HBO).

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GOODSPEED MUSICALS | 2011 SEASON

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GOODSPEED MUSICALS
2011 SEASON

WHO’S WHO


NICHOLAS WARD* (Ensemble) Grew up in Niceville, Florida and currently resides in NYC. He has been blessed to have performed all over the world. Favorites include: National Tour of Show Boat, European Tour of Porgy and Bess, Booker T. Washington in Ragtime. Many thanks to God, my loving Mother and Grandmother, and friends and family for their support.

JET THOMASON* (Sheriff, Ensemble) is proud to be making his Goodspeed debut! Favorite regional credits include A Chorus Line (Zach), The World Goes Round (Man 2), Joseph...Dreamcoat (Ruben/Pharaoh), and Damn Yankees (Rocky). He was also the understudy for Che in 22 NYMF. Much love and thanks to everyone who’s who and to Ravenal (Show Boat). Love and thanks to all my family.

MOLLIE VOGT-WELCH* (Ensemble) Goodspeed: Camelot. Broadway: A Tale of Two Cities. National Tours: Camelot (Guenevere), Peter Pan (Wendy). Off Broadway/Regional: South Pacific (Nellie), The Fantasticks (Luisa), Ragtime (Evelyn Nesbit), Smile (Doria), Table Manners (Annie), Wuthering Heights (Isabella), Hair (Crissy). Proud Penn State BFA grad; Potsdam, NY native. Love and thanks to my wonderful family and friends.

ADAM FENTON GODDU (Swing) is thrilled to return to Goodspeed after performing in Goodspeed’s Festival of New Artists, where he played E. Howard Hunt in the reading of Room 16. He is a recent graduate of The Boston Conservatory, where he played roles from George H. Jones (Machinal) to Ravenal (Show Boat). Love and thanks to all my family.

CHRISTIANA RODI (Swing) Christiana recently graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Hartt School. Recent credits include Into the Woods (Witch), Band Geeks! (Natalia Vosavich), Nobody Loves You (Goodspeed Musicals: Festival of New Artists). Christiana has also been a part of various theatrical and vocal performances at home in Rhode Island.

BELLE DORAZ (Yung Kim understudy) This is Belle’s Goodspeed debut. She has been active in regional theatre since she was four years old. Some of her more recent roles include Charlie in The Backstage Players production of Oliver! She was also The Artful Dodger in Oliver! and played the title role in Cinderella, both at Allegro Performing Arts. Belle would like to thank everyone at Goodspeed for this tremendous opportunity and her entire family for all of their encouragement and support.

MICHAEL P. PRICE (Executive Director) is now in his 43rd year as Executive Director of Goodspeed Musicals. Show Boat is Michael’s 204th production at the Goodspeed Opera House. He has enjoyed a fair degree of success in the theater.

JOEY RUGGIERO (Associate Producer) is thrilled to be returning to Goodspeed this season after having directed productions of 1776, Big River, Camelot, and last season’s Annie Get Your Gun. His Broadway credits include Looped, starring Valerie Harper (in a Tony nominated performance) and the recent production of High, a new play about faith and addiction (starring Kathleen Turner). Other New York credits include All Under Heaven (also starring Valerie Harper), as well as conceiving and directing the original musical revue Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn (Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award nominations). Regionally, Mr. Ruggiero has earned national recognition for his work on both plays and musicals, having received numerous awards including four Connecticut Critics Circle Awards, a Joseph Jefferson Award in Chicago, and currently having the distinction of being the only director to have received four Kevin Kline Awards in St. Louis. Connecticut audiences are also familiar with Mr. Ruggiero’s work through his association with TheaterWorks in Hartford, where he has been a key partner in the artistic leadership since 1992. He conceived and directed the highly successful Ella (Kevin Kline and Joseph Jefferson Awards) at TheaterWorks, which has been produced at over twenty major regional theaters around the country, and recently concluded a National Tour which began last fall at Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven. Upcoming projects include The Understudy at TheaterWorks and Sunday in the Park with George at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

NOAH RACEY (Choreographer) Last appeared on the Opera House stage in a dress as the title character in Where’s Charley?. Recently: Guys & Dolls, Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theatre. Appeared on Broadway in Curtains, Never Gonna Dance, Thoroughly Modern Millie (Associate Choreographer), Follies. NY credits: directed Brooklyn to Hollywood (starring Towah Feldshuh); 2006 Nightlife Awards: All Singin’ All Dancin’ (world premiere). With director Jeff Calhoun: Choreographer, 2008-09 White Christmas National Tour; Associate Director High School Musical, High School Musical 2

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ABBY TAYLOR (Natalia Vosavich) recently seen in Camelot. She is currently a student at the University of Connecticut.

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BOB ALWINE (Associate Producer) joined the Goodspeed producing team in 2002. He established the Goodspeed National Touring initiative featuring productions of Pippin and The Boy Friend directed by Julie Andrews. Previously, he worked as the Associate Managing Director of The Old Globe in San Diego, CA, and the Director of Programming for The Ordway Center in St. Paul, MN. Bob holds an MFA in Theater Management and Producing from Columbia University and was a recipient of an NEA Award in musical theater producing.

DONNA LYNN COOPER HILTON (Line Producer) celebrates her 24th year with Goodspeed in 2011 and has worked on over 70 Goodspeed productions beginning with Wonderful Town in 1988. She previously served as Goodspeed’s Production Stage Manager and, as PSM, transferred Goodspeed’s production of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes to Broadway. Donna Lynn serves on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and has worked on over 70 Goodspeed productions beginning with Wonderful Town in 1988. She previously served as Goodspeed’s Production Stage Manager and, as PSM, transferred Goodspeed’s production of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes to Broadway. Donna Lynn serves on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and has worked on over 70 Goodspeed productions. She is a member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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MOLLY BOULT sứ

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GOODSPEED MUSICALS

(Atlanta Fox, Shenandoah (Ford’s Theatre DC starring Scott Bakula), Choreographer, world premiere of Turn of the Century (Goodman Theatre, dir. Tommy Tune, starring Jeff Daniels), Connecticut Critic Circle Award: Outstanding Choreography, Goodspeed’s Annie Get Your Gun. Upcoming: It Shoulda Been You (George Street Playhouse, starring Tyne Daly, directed by David Hyde Pierce). In 2012 Noah stars in Tommy Tune Presents: State of the Art Song & Dance at Asolo Rep (dir. Jeff Calhoun).

Founding Artistic Director, The New York Song & Dance Company. He is a product of—and strong proponent for—arts funding in public schools.

MICHAEL O’FLAHERTY (Music Director) is in his 20th season as Goodspeed’s Resident Music Director. Broadway: By Jeeves, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, A Streetcar Named Desire. Also: Paper Mill Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Ford’s Theatre, The Brooklyn Public Theatre, and the Smithsonian Institution. Musical Supervisor and Cabaret Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival for 11 years. His original musical Genesius, for which he wrote music and lyrics, was recently showcased in NYC.

F. WADE RUSSO (Assistant Music Director) Goodspeed: over 17 productions including The Boy Friend National Tour. Broadway: By Jeeves (assistant conductor, original cast recording conductor). Most recent: director/conductor Strike Up the Band and Show Boat, Boston Conservatory, Regional: Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Barrington Stage, Lyric Theatre of Boston, Gateway Playhouse, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Long Wharf Theatre, Weston Playhouse, Juilliard Repertory, Williamstown Theatre Festival. Faculty: National Theatre Centre (O’Neill Theatre Center), Circle in the Square Theatre School, Emerson College, Juilliard School, Boston Conservatory. As always, a special thanks to O’F 30 of years of working together.

LEAH J. LOUKAS (Hair & Wig Design) is a graduate of the Makeup and Wig Design program at The University of Cincinnati’s College Conservatory of Music. Broadway wig designs include Irena’s Vow and American Idiot. Off-Broadway hair and wig designs include Irena’s Vow, This Wide Night with Edie Falco, Spy Garbo at 3LD Theater, The Shaggs at Playwrights Horizons, 39 Steps at Hartford Stage. Leah is Associate Designer for Charles Lapointe on Broadway shows including Jersey Boys, Guys and Dolls, Memphis, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown. Leah would like to thank Chuck and her family for their unconditional love and support.

AMY CLARK (Costume Design) Recent credits include: Comedy of Errors, Taming of the Shrew (Hudson Valley Shakespeare); Monster at the Door (The Alley Theatre); Superior Donuts (Pittsburgh Public Theatre); Apple Cove (The Women’s Project); Dramatis Personae, Dreams of the Washer (Cherry Lane); Love Song (Hudson Stage); Marrying Meg (Theatre at St. Clements); Animals Out of Paper, All This Intimacy (Second Stage); Jayson with a Y (Lion, Theatre Row); Baby by Tere O’Conner (DTW); In Case You Forget (New York Stage and Film); Dangerous Beauty (New York Stage and Film). Member of United Scenic Artists local 829. MFA from NYU Tisch School for the Arts.


R. GLEN GRUSMARK (Production Manager) is a graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he earned a scholarship for artistic excellence and a BFA in technical production. In addition to Goodspeed’s two stages, Glen has overseen technical management of two Goodspeed National Tours, Goodspeed’s By Jeeves! on Broadway, as well as transfers, construction, and installation work on Goodspeed’s behalf, including Brooklyn Academy of Music, Variety Arts Theatre (NYC), New World Stages (NYC) and The Ford’s Theatre (DC). Glen is celebrating his 20th season with the Goodspeed team.

BRADLEY G. SPACMHAN* (Production Stage Manager) is enjoying his 17th season with Goodspeed Musicals! Originally from Chicago, he has worked at the Goodman and Lookingglass theatres. In Connecticut, he has stage managed at Yale Rep and the Connecticut Repertory theatres. He brought Goodspeed’s productions of Pippin and The Boy Friend to audiences across North America. At The Norma Terris Theatre he stage managed Lizzie Borden, The Baker’s Wife, and O. Henry’s Lovers. Some of his favorite Goodspeed productions include King of Hearts, Carnival!, and Singin’ in the Rain. For Kim.

DEREK MICHAEL DIGREGORIO* (Assistant Stage Manager) Broadway: The Book of Mormon. Goodspeed: Pippin, 1776, Happy Days, Half a Sixpence. Big River, Jim Henson’s Emmet Otter, 42nd Street, Camelot, A Funny Thing…Forum, Annie Get Your Gun, Carnival!, How to Succeed…

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY (Music Director) is in his 20th season as Goodspeed’s Resident Music Director. Broadway: By Jeeves, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, A Streetcar Named Desire. Also: Paper Mill Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Ford’s Theatre, The Brooklyn Public Academy of Music, The Kennedy Center, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and the Smithsonian Institution. Musical Supervisor and Cabaret Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival for 11 years. His original musical Genesius, for which he wrote music and lyrics, was recently showcased in NYC.

MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT (Scenic Design) World premiere of Duncan Sheik’s Whisper House at The Old Globe in San Diego. Recent credits include Ella, a musical about jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald which is appearing in cities all across the country; critically acclaimed productions of Annie Get Your Gun, 1776, Big River, and Camelot for Goodspeed Musicals; Bloodsong of Love at Ars Nova; Barnum for The Asolo Rep’s 50th anniversary season; American premieres of Frank McGuinness’ Gates of Gold and The Bird Sanctuary; Oklahomah! starring Kelli O’Hara and Will Chase, celebrating The Oklahoma State centennial; and National and International Tours of James Taylor’s One Man Band. Online portfolio: www.mssportfolio.com.

AMY CLARK (Costume Design) Recent credits include: Comedy of Errors, Taming of the Shrew (Hudson Valley Shakespeare); Monster at the Door (The Alley Theatre); Superior Donuts (Pittsburgh Public Theatre); Apple Cove (The Women’s Project); Dramatis Personae, Dreams of the Washer (Cherry Lane); Love Song (Hudson Stage); Marrying Meg (Theatre at St. Clements); Animals Out of Paper, All This Intimacy (Second Stage); Jayson with a Y (Lion, Theatre Row); Baby by Tere O’Conner (DTW); In Case You Forgot (New York Stage and Film); Dangerous Beauty (New York Stage and Film). Member of United Scenic Artists local 829. MFA from NYU Tisch School for the Arts.


LEAH J. LOUKAS (Hair & Wig Design) is a graduate of the Makeup and Wig Design program at The University of Cincinnati’s College Conservatory of Music. Broadway wig designs include Irena’s Vow and American Idiot. Off-Broadway hair and wig designs include Irena’s Vow, This Wide Night with Edie Falco, Spy Girl at 3LD Theater, The Shaggs at Playwrights Horizons, 39 Steps at Hartford Stage. Leah is Associate Designer for Charles Lapointe on Broadway shows including Jersey Boys, Guys and Dolls, Memphis, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown. Leah would like to thank Chuck and her family for their unconditional love and support.

JAY HILTON (Sound Design) is proud of his long association with Goodspeed, having designed countless productions at the Goodspeed Opera House and Goodspeed’s Norma Terris Theatre in Chester. In addition to his design duties, Jay serves as the Lighting & Sound Supervisor for all of Goodspeed’s productions. Jay’s work has been heard on Broadway, National Tours, and at regional theatres from coast to coast. Jay and his wife, Goodspeed’s Line Producer Donna Lynn Hilton, make their home (and garden) in Hadlyme.

DAN DeLANGE (Orchestrator) has scored music for Paul Williams, Julie Andrews, Rosie O’Donnell, Jerry Herman, Harvey Schmitt, Peter Link, and the Jim Henson Company. He orchestrated the premiere of Charles Strouse’s You Never Know, conducted the Broadway National Tour of Chicago, and was music director/conductor for Musical America’s National Tours of Crazy For You, Beauty and the Beast, and Singin’ in the Rain. Graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. DanDeLangeOrchestrations.com.

F. WADE RUSSO (Assistant Music Director) Goodspeed: over 17 productions including The Boy Friend National Tour. Broadway: By Jeeves (assistant conductor, original cast recording conductor). Most recent: director/conductor Strike Up the Band and Show Boat, Boston Conservatory, Regional: Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Barrington Stage, Lyric Theatre of Boston, Gateway Playhouse, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Long Wharf Theatre, Weston Playhouse, Juilliard Repertory, Williamstown Theatre Festival. Faculty: National Theatre Centre (O’Neill Theatre Center), Circle in the Square Theatre School, Emerson College, Juilliard School, Boston Conservatory. As always, a special thanks to Kim’s OF for 30 years of working together.

RON PIRETTI (Fight Director) is an actor and fight director. He has staged the fights for the Broadway and National touring productions of West Side Story and In the Heights, has worked on The Miracle Worker with Abigail Breslin and on the current production of Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo starring Robin Williams, and staged the fights for Cutman at Goodspeed’s Norma Terris Theatre. Ron appeared as Officer Krupke on Broadway in the Broadway production of West Side Story. He has taught acting and/or stage combat at The Studio in NYC, Actors Studio MFA Program at Pace University, Wagner College, and Marymount Manhattan College. He received his MFA from the Goodman School of Drama.

STUART HOWARD, AMY SCHECTER, & PAUL HARDT (Casting) have cast hundreds of shows over the past 25 years in the USA, Canada, and Great Britain. Among their favorites: Gypsy (Tyne Daly), Chicago (Bebe Neuwirth, Ann Reinking), original La Cage aux Folles. Off Broadway: I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, The Normal Heart. Coming up: The Nutty Professor directed by Jerry Lewis. They are very pleased to be casting for Goodspeed again.

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*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
and My One and Only. Other New York credits include Applause at Encores! Other regional credits include Black Snow, Safe in Hell, and Comedy on the Bridge/Brundibar (Yale Rep). BA from Salem State College, MFA from Yale School of Drama. Proud member of AEA.

Interested in learning more about Show Boat?
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Articles include:
Meet the Writers • The Late 1800s to 1930
Behind the Scenes: Design • Page to Stage: Edna Ferber ...
and more!

JEROME KERN (Composer) (1885-1945) composed his first complete show, The Red Petticoat, in 1912. Between 1915 and 1919, he composed a series of intimate chamber musicals, mostly in collaboration with Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse, known as the Princess Theatre Shows. These works – Very Good, Eddie; Oh, Boy!; Oh, Lady! Lady!!; Leave it to Jane; and Zip Goes A Million – are credited with laying the foundation of the modern American musical comedy. Throughout the 1920s Kern’s composing style broadened with works such as Sally, Sitting Pretty, Dear Sir, Sunny, and The City Chap, culminating in 1927 with Show Boat. With Show Boat, Kern began a series of works for the stage which were more operatic and involved the close interweaving of music, song, and speech, including Sweet Adeline (1929), The Cat and the Fiddle (1931), Music in the Air (1932), and Roberta (1933). In the 1930s, Kern moved to Hollywood and wrote a series of successful film scores, including “Swing Time,” “Cover Girl,” “You Were Never Lovelier,” and “Can’t Help Singing.” His final stage musical, Very Warm for May (1939), included his masterpiece “All the Things You Are.” Among his extraordinary list of songs are “They Didn’t Believe Me,” “Look for the Silver Lining,” “Why Was I Born?,” “Don’t Ever Leave Me,” “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes,” “Yesterdays,” “The Way You Look Tonight” (Academy Award-1936), “The Last Time I Saw Paris” (Academy Award-1940), “A Fine Romance,” and “Long Ago and Far Away.” Kern died in NYC in 1945 while preparing to begin work with Dorothy Fields on a new musical entitled Annie Oakley.

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II (Book and Lyrics) (1895-1960). Born into a theatrical dynasty headed by his grandfather and namesake, Oscar Hammerstein II began his stage career as a playwright, soon turning to librettos and lyrics written for some of the greatest composers of his day. His innovations breathed new life into the moribund art form of operetta with such classics as Rose-Marie, The Desert Song, and The New Moon. He wrote eight musicals with Jerome Kern, including Music in the Air, Sweet Adeline, and their masterpiece Show Boat. His last musical before embarking on an exclusive partnership with Richard Rodgers was Carmen Jones, an all-black revision of Bizet’s tragic opera. In 1943, Hammerstein joined forces with Richard Rodgers. Their first collaboration merged Hammerstein’s advance in operetta with Rodgers’ achievements in musical comedy and the result, Oklahoma!, was not only the first of a new genre — the musical play — but also the start of the most successful partnership in the American musical theatre. Over the next 17 years Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote eight more Broadway musicals — Carousel, Allegro, South Pacific, The King and I, Me and Juliet, Pipe Dream, Flower Drum Song, and The Sound of Music; one movie musical, State Fair; and one for TV, “Cinderella.” Collectively their works earned 26 Tony Awards, 14 Academy Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes, and two Grammy Awards.

EDNA FERBER (Original Book) (1887-1968) was an American novelist and playwright whose camera-like regional descriptions and vigorous portraiture of ordinary men and women made her one of the most popular authors of the early 20th century. Her first professional writing was done for newspapers in Wisconsin and Chicago. In 1911, she began publishing fiction, with initial fame coming from a series of short stories about Emma McChesney, a traveling saleswoman. In 1925, Miss Ferber won a Pulitzer Prize for her novel So Big (1924). Her other novels include Dawn O’Hara (1919), The Girls (1921). Show Boat (1926), Cimmaron (1930), Come and Get It (1934), Saratoga Trunk (1941), Giant (1952), and Ice Palace (1958). With George S. Kaufman, she co-authored some of the most successful plays of the period: The Royal Family (1927), Dinner at Eight (1932), Stage Door (1938), and The Land is Bright (1941).