




*A little magic can take  
you a long way.*



Roald  
Dahl's  
**James  
and the Giant  
Peach**

*Music by Justin Paul • Lyrics by Benj Pasek*

*Book by Timothy Allen McDonald*

*Based on the book written by Roald Dahl*

*Directed by Linda Widener*

**MAY 16-19 & 23-26, 2024**

# Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*



**MAY 16-19  
& 23-26, 2024**

## *Production Team*

DIRECTOR	Linda Widener
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Mike Sobocinski
STAGE MANAGER & SCENOGRAPHY	Elisha Smith
CHOREOGRAPHER	Fran Ludington
PRODUCER & ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Tom Ferris
MUSIC CONSULTANTS	Angie Schwab, Sarah Lehman
REHEARSAL PIANIST	Sarah Lehman
COSTUMES	Morgan Pohl
HAIR & MAKEUP	Lane Soupal, Susie Perazza
PROPS	Michelle Smith, Tracy Smith, Aaron Wittbrodt
BACKSTAGE CREW	Emma Heedum, Kaelynn Smith Michelle Smith, Tracy Smith, Ben Warfield
LIGHTING DESIGN	Ted Daniel, Tim Daniel
SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR	Ellison Hall
SOUND DESIGN & TECH	Leon Green, Tyson Cowles
SOUND EFFECTS DESIGN	Colin Lechner
SET DESIGN	Tom Ferris, Bob Nees
SET BUILD	Leroy Cupp, Bob Nees, Leon Green, Patty Weiber, Alan Greenberg, Tom Ferris Riverwalk Theatre scene shop volunteers

## *Special Thanks*

Matt Ottinger, Caleb Liggett - Projections,  
Amanda Lorenz - MSU Bug House

And to Emerson Hendry, Ben Warfield, Emma Heedum, Quinn Guthaus,  
and Linda Shankland for their work on the scenography team.

*James and the Giant Peach* is presented through special  
arrangement with Music Theatre International • [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)

Roald Dahl's widow Liccy granted the rights to develop *James and the Giant Peach* to Timothy Allen McDonald. Teaming up with the songwriting team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the show premiered in September 2010, Goodspeed Musicals in Connecticut. It was later re-worked in 2015 and a new cast album released.

**The video or audio recording of this performance  
by any means is strictly prohibited.**

*James and the Giant Peach* is a delightfully offbeat adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl adventure! When James is sent by his aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that launches an expedition of enormous proportions. Suddenly, James finds himself in the center of a gigantic peach, among human-sized insects with equally oversized personalities. After the peach rolls into the ocean, the group faces hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements. Thanks to James' quick wit and creative thinking, they learn to live and work together as a family.

## *Cast*

JAMES	Nicholas Pasko
JAMES UNDERSTUDY	Miles McEvoy
LADAHLORD	Luka Pawsek
AUNT SPIKER	Joyce Kramer-Cox
AUNT SPONGE	Holly Kay-Cannon
GRASSHOPPER	Brian Farnham
LADYBUG	Ava Taube
EARTHWORM	Riley Hirai
SPIDER	Sophia Charles Bernard
CENTIPEDE	Garrett Manor

### ENSEMBLE

Quinley Durham, Danny Ferris, Lynn Gude,  
Dominic Hall, Leland Izydorek, Joanna Klepal,  
Kat Koehn, Louise Labbate, Sarah Lehman, Caleb Liggett,  
Bobby Maldonado, Carin McEvoy, Sadie McEvoy,  
Leah Paslawski, Zoë Schultheiss, Taylor Smith,  
Lane Soupal, Jane Zussman, Mark Zussman

## 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Brian Farnham
ADMIN. VP	Kate Clark
PRODUCTION VP	Shannon Bowen
TREASURER	Michele Booher-Puroskey
SECRETARY	Elisha Smith

Frank Boston	Lauren Mudry
Laura Clark-Roumpz	Scott Pohl
Darrin Fowler	Ayden Soupal
Leon Green	Julian Van Dyke
Alan Greenberg	Rick Wendorf
Bernie Lucas	Linda Widener
Amanda Macomber	Aaron Wittbrodt
Scott Mandel	Liane Zimny

## RIVERWALK STAFF

OFFICE MANAGER	Mike Siracuse
CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE	Adam Carlson
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER	Kate Koskinen
COSTUME SHOP ASSOCIATE	Cathy Wotring
ripples NEWSLETTER	Jane Zussman
GRAPHIC DESIGN & PROGRAM LAYOUT	Kelly Sandula-Gruner <a href="http://grunergraphics.com">grunergraphics.com</a>

Riverwalk Theatre  
is generously supported by:



P.O. Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901  
Info/Reservations **517-482-5700**  
Email [RWT@RiverwalkTheatre.com](mailto:RWT@RiverwalkTheatre.com)

Riverwalk office open Tues-Fri  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
and two hours prior to showtimes



### Our current lobby artist is **Margo Guillory**

Margo is a multi-media artist born and raised in the mountains of Utah. She creates dreamcatchers, wall-hanging art, digital art, and wearable art.

“I learned about dreamcatchers from my father. He taught me about this art form connected to our Native American culture, and it has been a symbol we’ve shared ever since. Making dreamcatchers is my heart, soul, and heritage manifested into art. Not only does it connect me deeply to my creativity but also my spirituality, lineage, and history. I am proud to carry on this tradition with my own unique pieces.”

If the face looks familiar, Margo appeared onstage at Riverwalk as “Aunt Queenie” in 2022’s *Bell, Book and Candle*.

# Settings & Music

*There will be one 15-minute intermission between acts.*

## ACT 1

Scene 1: Painswick Orphanage, London, England

Scene 2: A Boardwalk in Dover, England

Scene 3: Spiker and Sponge's decrepit garden

Scene 4: Spiker and Sponge's decrepit garden, morning

Scene 5: Spiker and Sponge's garden, many weeks later

Scene 6: Inside the Peach

## SONGS

1. Overture
2. Right Before Your Eyes
3. On Your Way Home
4. Right Before Your Eyes (reprise 1)
5. Property of Spiker and Sponge
6. Right Before Your Eyes (reprise 2)
7. Shake It Up
8. Money On That Tree
9. Middle of a Moment
10. Floating Along

## ACT 2

Scene 1: The Peach on the ocean, many days later

Scene 2: Spiker and Sponge's decrepit garden, moments after Peach rolls

Scene 3: The Peach on the ocean at nighttime

Scene 4: Lido deck of the Jewel of the Seas cruise ship

Scene 5: The Peach on the ocean at sunrise

Scene 6: Somewhere over New York City

## SONGS

11. Entr'acte
12. Have You Even Begun to Wonder?
13. A Getaway for Spiker and Sponge
14. Everywhere That You Are
15. Right Before Your Eyes (reprise 3)
16. I Got You
17. Plump and Juicy
18. Right Before Your Eyes (reprise 4)
19. Empire State / The Attack
20. On Your Way Home (reprise)



# Cast of Main Characters



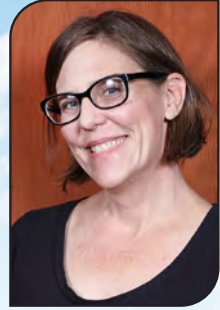
**Nicholas Pasko**  
JAMES



**Luka Pawsek**  
LADALORD



**Joyce Kramer-Cox**  
AUNT SPIKER



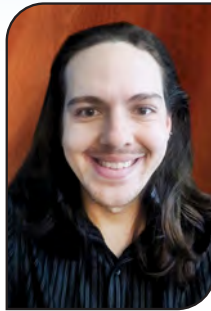
**Holly Kay-Cannon**  
AUNT SPONGE



**Brian Farnham**  
GRASSHOPPER



**Ava Taube**  
LADYBUG



**Riley Hirai**  
EARTHWORM



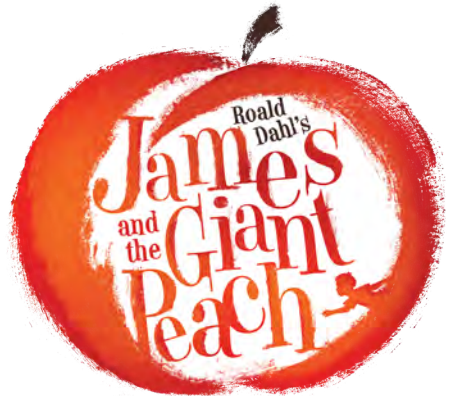
**Sophia Charles**  
Bernard  
SPIDER



**Garrett Manor**  
CENTIPEDE



**Miles McEvoy**  
JAMES  
UNDERSTUDY



# *The Ensemble*



**Quinley  
Durham**



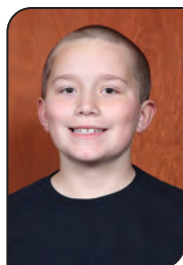
**Danny  
Ferris**



**Lynn  
Gude**



**Dominic  
Hall**



**Leland  
Izydorek**



**Joanna  
Klepal**



**Kat  
Koehn**



**Louise  
Labbate**



**Sarah  
Lehman**



**Caleb  
Liggett**



**Bobby  
Maldonado**



**Carin  
McEvoy**



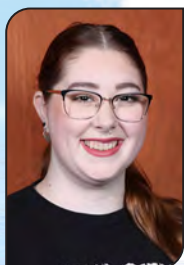
**Sadie  
McEvoy**



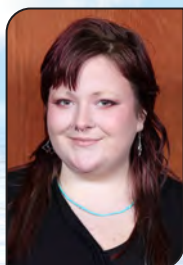
**Leah  
Paslawski**



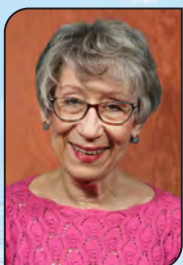
**Zoë  
Schultheiss**



**Taylor  
Smith**



**Lane  
Soupal**



**Jane  
Zussman**



**Mark  
Zussman**

# Production Team



*From left to right:*  
**Assistant Director Mike Sobocinski, Choreographer Fran Ludington, Director Linda Widener, and Producer Tom Ferris**



**Elisha Smith**  
STAGE MANAGER,  
SCENOGRAPHY



**Angie Schwab**  
MUSIC  
CONSULTANT



**Morgan Pohl**  
COSTUMES



**Lane Soupal**  
HAIR &  
MAKEUP



**Michelle Smith**  
PROPS



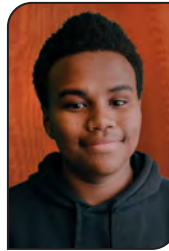
**Tracy Smith**  
PROPS



**Ted Daniel**  
LIGHTING  
DESIGN



**Tim Daniel**  
LIGHTING  
DESIGN



**Ellison Hall**  
SPOTLIGHT  
OPERATOR



**Leon Green**  
SOUND DESIGN  
& TECH



**Bob Nees**  
SET DESIGN/  
BUILD

Not pictured are backstage crew Emma Heedum, Kaelynn Smith, Ben Warfield and Aaron Wittbrodt; sound effects designer Colin Lechner; hair and makeup assistant Susie Perazza; light tech Hazim Moneen; and sound tech Tyson Cowles. Thanks again to all of our Riverwalk scene shop volunteers who helped construct our set.



## *From the Director*

***A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men.***

Roald Dahl's children's books are mostly made up of quirky stories of adventure but they also contain deeper, valuable lessons and *James and the Giant Peach* is no exception — a young person is set against incredible odds, and must find new ways of moving forward to create a new life for himself. The musical version differs from the book, but both share the same storyline and main characters. At its heart, it is a story about the importance of courage, friendship and the true meaning of family.

Live theatre has remarkable power. Its intimacy and emotional honesty can transport us to remarkable places and change how we see ourselves and the larger world around us. My hope is that by bringing *James and the Giant Peach* to our stage, you might tap into its deeper meanings and understand that you are never alone. Try to recognize the loving ladybugs, gentle grasshoppers and sagacious spiders who come into your life in unexpected ways. And if you encounter a frightened earthworm along life's journey, help them to find their bravery and in doing so find your own. When encountering cynical centipedes (as we most assuredly will at some point), step back and try and understand the reasons for their feelings and attitudes (walk a mile in their many, many shoes) and in doing so we will hopefully learn more about ourselves. "And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." — Roald Dahl

Thank you for allowing the cast and crew the opportunity to share with you their talents. This performance would not have been possible without their dedication to this project. I cannot express enough my feeling of gratitude for each member of the cast and crew and those amazing behind the scenes members of the *Peach* production team. It is their talent and hard work that have brought this performance to life.

— Linda Widener

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**Sophia Charles Bernard (SPIDER)** – Sophia hails from West Michigan to debut as "Spider" in this production. She enjoys a lifetime career of singing and performing. Sophia has been seen throughout West Michigan, working with various organizations, not limited to Opera Grand Rapids, West Michigan Opera Project, Holland Chorale, churches, and schools. She looks forward to exploring the music scenes in Lansing and Detroit. "I do it because I love it; so I expect I'll be doing it all my life."

**Quinley Durham (ENSEMBLE)** – Quinley is a seventh grader from Lansing. This is her first show, but she's been involved in school choir and theater camp at Wharton Center. Quinley loves making movies with her BFF Addy, giraffes, penguins, the *Scream* movie franchise, her family, and Ryan Reynolds. She can often be found crafting, having sleepovers, swimming, practicing Russian, or spending time with her dog, Olive. She loves her dad's spaghetti, her nana's lasagna, traveling with her mom, and shenanigans with her papa. She would like to thank everyone at Riverwalk and her new dance shoes for their support in her first show!

**Brian Farnham (GRASSHOPPER)** - Brian is a native of Midland, MI, who lives here in Lansing with his adorable puppy Nigel. He is thrilled to be performing in *James and the Giant Peach*, one of his favorite childhood stories! Brian is the current President of the Riverwalk board of directors, and is also slated to direct next season's fall musical, *Urinetown!* Professionally, Brian is a biochemist, so he very much appreciates the opportunity to flex his creative muscles in his spare time. He would like to thank Linda, Fran, and Mike for this opportunity and the entire cast and crew for making it so fun! He truly hopes that you all enjoy floatin' along with us today!

**Danny Ferris (ENSEMBLE)** - Danny is glad to be back on the Riverwalk Theatre stage, his home away from home, for the 18th time. Danny was recently seen playing "Squeaker the Squirrel" in *A Year with Frog and Toad*. It's great to be on stage again with old friends and new. I'm glad you're here to join all of us in this whimsical musical adventure of *James and The Giant Peach*, and I hope we don't "BUG" you too much! Thanks mom and dad for all of your support.

**Lynn Gude (ENSEMBLE)** - Lynn is making her debut at Riverwalk! She is in middle school and moves on to high school next year. At Midway Theater, she has appeared in *Rodger and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Elf Jr.*, and *Peter Pan Jr.* Lynn is performing in her school's talent show this year, and wants to be an actress when she's older. She is so grateful to be in this show and have the opportunity to continue her theatre career.

**Dominic Hall (ENSEMBLE)** - Dominic is making his Riverwalk debut in *James and the Giant Peach*. He graduated in 2022. When he isn't doing theatre, he enjoys video games and hanging out with friends. Dominic would like to thank Linda, Fran and Mike for this opportunity. Thank you to the ensemble for being fun to work with.

**Riley Hirai (EARTHWORM)** - Riley is from Tallahassee, FL, and moved to Lansing last year. This is his second project with Riverwalk Theatre but his first performance on the main stage. He is an opera singer with a degree from Florida State University in voice performance with a background in technical theater. He works as a barista and bike mechanic. In his spare time, he enjoys playing music, rock climbing, biking, and streaming on Twitch. He's very excited to be a part of this and future productions at Riverwalk.

**Leland Izydorek (ENSEMBLE)** - Leland is eight years old, and this is his debut, full-feature theatre performance! He has always had a passion for entertaining, making movies, and singing. His favorite production is *Hamilton*. While attending All-of-Us Express drama camp last summer, he was cast as "Olaf" in a shortened version of *Frozen Jr.* When he grows up, he would like to travel into space as a world-famous astronaut. If he is unsuccessful in his pursuit of space, his backup plan is to become an actor, where he can at least play an astronaut on TV.

**Holly Kay-Cannon (AUNT SPONGE)** - After taking on the comedy of *Christmas Belles* and the drama of *The Exonerated*, Holly decided to finish out this Riverwalk season with the incredible craziness of *James and The Giant Peach* and is super excited to add a little song and dance to her life! She is also known for her work in *The Lady from Maxim's*, *Anna Christie*, and *She Loves Me!* — the latter of which proudly brought her a Barney Award. Holly sends her gratitude and love to her fella, friends, and family who are always so supportive and amazing!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO



**JACKSON**® for donation of  
program printing

## *Well, maybe it started that way. As a dream. But doesn't everything?*

**Joanna Klepal (ENSEMBLE)** – Joanna has been involved in music her whole life — from performing with her family as a child, to high school shows and later graduating with a degree in Vocal Performance. Her first experience with RWT was in 2014 when she played the forgetful Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*. Later on, she was a part of Riverwalk's collaboration with All-of-Us Express in their production of *Wizard of Oz* (2019). Joanna is a mother of four (8,6,4,2), and has been supported by her loving husband, Joel, for 16 years. When not chasing kiddos around, she is usually seen knitting or crafting.

**Kat Koehn (ENSEMBLE)** – Kat is thrilled to return to the stage after her last appearance in *A Year with Frog and Toad* at Riverwalk, where she moved at a Snail's pace. Her favorite roles include the "Wicked Witch" in *Wizard of Oz* and "Michael Wormwood" in *Matilda*. Since her theater journey began in 2018, Kat has been involved in 10 productions in the Lansing area, passionately urging others to join community theater, onstage or behind the scenes. Grateful for the support of the cast, crew, friends, and family, Kat especially thanks her partner, Jason, for being her biggest fan.

**Joyce Kramer-Cox (AUNT SPIKER)** – Joyce is thrilled to be playing "Spiker" in *James and the Giant Peach*. Most recently, she has been seen on stage as "Matron 'Mama' Morton" in Evolve's production of *Chicago: The Musical*. Joyce is a substitute teacher and lives in Holt with her husband John. She moved back to Michigan after living in Ohio and the United Kingdom, where she has appeared in *Sister Act*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Maternal Instincts*, *Silver Linings* and numerous other shows. This is Joyce's first production here at Riverwalk, and she looks forward to continuing her association with Riverwalk Theatre.

**Louise Labbate (ENSEMBLE)** – Louise is excited to be participating in her first Riverwalk Theatre production. In high school, she performed in the musicals *Oklahoma* and *Grease*, but it's been a number of years, and she's thrilled to be back on stage. Louise is very grateful to her husband for being so supportive while she's been busy with rehearsals. While not in the theatre, she loves to enjoy the outdoors with her two wonderful fur babies. The RWT community has been so welcoming, and she couldn't be happier to join the family!

**Sarah Lehman (ENSEMBLE/REHEARSAL PIANIST)** – Sarah is excited to return to the Riverwalk stage after her debut appearance in *Peter and the Starcatcher* ("Teacher"/ensemble). Her most recent production was LCC's *Sense & Sensibility*, in which she portrayed "Mrs. Dashwood" and "Anne Steele". Sarah enjoys and tries to participate in arts of all kinds. These days, she can be found making homemade journals, facilitating library programs, and saying hello to local wildlife from a respectful distance (while they do not respond, she still considers them friends). She'd like to thank this delightful cast and crew for all their goodwill and enthusiasm!

**Caleb Liggett (ENSEMBLE)** – Caleb has been involved with Riverwalk Theatre for nearly a decade and loved his time with every show. Since 2015, RWT onstage credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Master Harold and the Boys*, *Hairspray*, *All Together Now*, *The Revolutionists*, and *A Year with Frog and Toad* (you may remember him as "Lizard"! ). He also has many backstage credits and roles with other area theatres to his name. Caleb is an artist and animator when not doing theatre. He hopes *Peach* will be just as grand and amazing for the audience as it has been for him.

**Bobby Maldonado (ENSEMBLE)** – This will be Bobby’s first show at Riverwalk since 2015, but he’s performed throughout Lansing for many other groups. Bobby is employed with Sparrow Hospital and served in the United States Marine Corps. He is excited to be back playing a host of characters with friends old and new. For Bobby, it’s about making connections and working through the process while having fun. He is confident you will enjoy the magic.

**Garrett Manor (CENTIPEDE)** – Garrett is excited to be in his first show at Riverwalk and thrilled to be working with such a talented group. Garrett graduated from DeWitt high school where he played “Javert” in *Les Misérables* and “Lumiere” in *Beauty and the Beast*. He is grateful for his family and directors and hopes to continue acting in the future.

**Carin McEvoy (ENSEMBLE)** – Carin is thrilled to share the stage with two of her three children in this show. Carin has played many roles in local theaters both on and off the stage. She also teaches elementary music in East Lansing, early childhood music at the MSU Community Music School, and is the executive director of the Michigan Music Education Association. Carin encourages everyone who enjoys live theater to advocate for arts education in our public schools, without which, none of us would be a part of this show!

**Miles McEvoy (JAMES UNDERSTUDY)** – Miles is a 5th grader in East Lansing. He is excited to be returning to Riverwalk for the first time since his debut in *Kinky Boots* last season! In addition to acting and singing, Miles likes to play soccer, Fortnite, and pranks on his family and friends. Miles is thankful to the directors for allowing him to “shake it up” and take on a lead role.

**Sadie McEvoy (ENSEMBLE)** – Sadie is an 8th grader in East Lansing. She is happy to be in her first musical with her mom and brother. She loves to sing, dance, play soccer, and play the harp and violin. She feels very grateful to her mom for pushing her to be in this show.

**Nicholas Pasko (JAMES)** – Nicholas has faced the footlights a few times before but not since pre-Covid. He is an ‘A’ student, and will enter the Okemos school district in the Fall. His interests range from dinosaurs and Mario to Halloween and movie-making. He plays piano, swims, break-dances and does gymnastics... and could define a non-Newtonian fluid at age 6. Nicholas loves art, music, and science, and plans to be the next Steven Spielberg. He wants to thank his Mom and Stan for their love and support, and for feeding him gourmet dishes and chicken nuggets respectively.

**Leah Paslawski (ENSEMBLE)** – This is Leah’s first show at Riverwalk (and in many years), and she is so excited to get back into theatre. Her last show was *A Christmas Carol* at Northville High School back in 2017. When she’s not on stage, she is an assistant at Valley Dental Spa. In her free time, she loves to cook and practice makeup. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Luka Pawsek (LADAHLORD)** – Luka is thrilled to return to the warm, cemented embrace of RWT’s main stage. This is his sixth Riverwalk production, and considering how much fun he’s having, he’ll definitely be back for a seventh! Other RWT credits include “Frank-n-Furter” in *The Rocky Horror Show*, “Mrs. Bumbrake” in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, “Karl the Giant” in *Big Fish*, and “Wilbur Turnblad” in *Hairspray!* He also appeared in the *Louder than Words* Cabaret (RWT), and played “Nick Bottom” in Jackson’s production of *Something Rotten* (CSJ). He would like to thank his husband Corey, his five pets, and everyone who’s ever lent a helping hand or ear. I love you all.

**Zoë Schultheiss (ENSEMBLE)** – Zoë is thrilled to be returning to the stage for the first time in nearly ten years! Zoë first reconnected with theater as the costume designer for Riverwalk's *Kinky Boots* in 2023. They are incredibly grateful for the amazing community that Riverwalk has introduced them to, including their directors, cast mates, and every other individual who has contributed to this show. Special thanks to an unwavering support network —their partner, Austin; their vocal coach, Anjuli; their family and friends; and the wonderful children in their life whose friendship keeps them in touch with their curiosity, joy, and imagination.

**Taylor Smith (ENSEMBLE)** – This is only Taylor's second time being on the Riverwalk stage in almost ten years! She has mostly been seen working backstage for many shows (*Noises Off*, *Elephant Man*, *The Rocky Horror Show*) and assistant directed *Misery!* Taylor would like to thank her parents (The Smiths) for urging her to audition after a six-year hiatus, her sister and best friend Kaelyn, and her boyfriend Jason for all of their support. Enjoy the show! #teampeach

**Lane Soupal (ENSEMBLE/HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN)** – Lane is thrilled to be returning to the Riverwalk stage in a performing role and is also honored to be the hair and makeup designer for the show. Having most recently choreographed RWT's *The Trail to Oregon*, they are no stranger to theatre. A few of their shows include LCC's *Cabaret* (Helga) and Holt High School's *Freaky Friday* (Savannah). They want to thank the fantastic company, their friends, family and you for coming to support this. Enjoy!

**Ava Taube (LADYBUG)** – Ava is thrilled to be back on the Riverwalk stage! Growing up, Ava loved Tim Burton's *James and the Giant Peach* film and always found the message to be very special. She has had so much fun bringing this magical story to life with such a talented and kind group of people. She would like to thank Jeremy for always understanding and supporting her, and her family for being her cheerleaders in the audience. Other credits include *The Wizard of Oz* as "Dorothy Gale", *Peter and the Starcatcher* as "Molly Aster", and *Catch Me if You Can* as "Brenda Strong".

**Jane Zussman (MATRON/ENSEMBLE)** – Jane was last seen in RWT's Black Box as "Roberta" in *Admissions*. She played "Veta Louise" in Starlight's *Harvey* last year. Since 1972, Jane has been in over 90 community theatre shows, mostly acting, occasionally directing, and once or twice as playwright. Favorite roles include "Miss Tweed" in *Something's Afoot* at Starlight and "Frau Blucher" in *Young Frankenstein* at *Riverwalk*. A mostly retired graphic designer/editor, she produces the Riverwalk newsletter and manages the G.L.U.T. e-mail list, writing reviews and dispensing info on Greater Lansing Ubiquitous Theatre shows and auditions. Past posts and all-theatres calendar at [greaterlansingtheatre.net](http://greaterlansingtheatre.net). E-mail [JSZussman@gmail.com](mailto:JSZussman@gmail.com) to get on the list.

**Mark Zussman (ENSEMBLE)** – Mark was last seen as "Judge Omar Gaffney" in Starlight's 2022 production of *Harvey* and previously appeared at Riverwalk in *Jekyll & Hyde* and at MSU Summer Circle in *Amour*. At Riverwalk, he was detective "Glen" in *Wonder of the World* and "The Hermit" in *Young Frankenstein*, as well as playing multiple roles in *Leaving Iowa*. Mark's performed for Starlight Dinner Theatre, Peppermint Creek, LCP, LCC, Ledges, Sunsets, and Audio Air Force — but mostly at Riverwalk, where he was in 19 adult shows and musicals, including *Broadway Bound*, for which he won a Barney and a Thespie. He also appeared in ten RWT children's shows, and directed/assistant-directed five more. He directed *The Miss Firecracker Contest* at Riverwalk and *St. Joan* for Sunsets.

*There are a whole lot of things in this world of ours  
you haven't started wondering about yet.*

**Ted Daniel (LIGHT DESIGN)** - Ted started back in the 1950s with The Slout Players at Ledges Playhouse and now manages tech equipment for Riverwalk. He has designed for NYC Off-Broadway and won awards in Lansing. Retired from IBM Service, he has LCC certificates in Technical Theater and is a graduate of MSTAP. A journeyman stagehand with professional venues, he has designed lights for many Riverwalk shows. Ted dedicates his work to the memory of his daughters, Denise and Jennifer.

**Tim Daniel (LIGHT DESIGN)** - From a theatre-rich background, Tim and his mom and sisters performed for both LCP and the Okemos Barn Theatre. His zest for tech comes from assisting his father Ted, who has been the technical director for CCP, Barn Theatre, BoarsHead, Ledges Playhouse, and Riverwalk. Now a seasoned tech himself, Tim has trained high school students in technical theatre design, application and safety.

**Tom Ferris (PRODUCER/ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)** - Tom recently directed *The Revolutionists* and *A Year with Frog and Toad* here at Riverwalk. He's been involved with Community Circle Players for many years and facilitated the organization's transition from the Okemos Barn Theatre to Riverwalk Theatre. He is a past RWT Board President and continues to support RWT in several capacities including designing lights, designing and building sets, producing and directing shows, managing the RWT website and electronic sign, and serving on the Fundraising, Building and Costume Shop committees.

**Leon Green (SOUND DESIGN/TECH)** - Leon is a sound engineer/audio technician and all-around volunteer. He most recently designed sound for *Amadeus*, *Christmas Belles* and *Admissions*, as well as many, many others here at Riverwalk. He has also provided set construction support on a number of shows. Leon is a member of the Riverwalk Board and serves on our Tech Committee.

**Ellison Hall (SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR)** - Ellison is a ninth grader at Waverly High School. He is excited to be returning to Riverwalk for another production — this time polishing up his lighting and tech skills. His most recent behind-the-scenes work is lighting design for Ixion's productions of *Pipeline* and *When I Come to Die*. When Ellison isn't behind the curtain, you will find him performing, singing, acting and composing music. His most recent roles were "Omari" in *Pipeline*, and a portrayal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in *Letter from Birmingham Jail* with Hope Central Urban Arts™. He would like to thank the cast and crew of *James and the Giant Peach* for the invitation and his mother for chauffeur service.

**Emma Heedum (BACKSTAGE CREW)** - Emma is excited to be back for another musical. It's awesome to be part of such a talented cast and crew! Getting to see how these shows come together has been a true pleasure.

**Colin Lechner (SOUND EFFECTS DESIGN)** - A terrestrially-bound space ape, Colin is a practitioner of the sonic arts, working primarily in feature films as a sound designer and re-recording mixer. You may have heard some of Colin's previous work in the animated feature film *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-verse*, for which he and the rest of the crew were honored by winning the Golden Reel Award from the Motion Picture Sound Editors. A Colorado native, he is an avid field recordist and an advocate of creating unique recordings for every project. He can often be found recording the wind as it sings.

**Fran Ludington (CHOREOGRAPHER)** - Fran is happy to return to Riverwalk. She has choreographed several productions for RWT, the last being *A Year with Frog and Toad* in 2022. Fran would like to thank the cast for all their hard work. Thanks to Linda and Tom for their faith and encouragement. Much love to her Systems for their support. And the most love to her husband Dave.

**Bob Nees (SET DESIGN)** – Bob has designed and helped build sets for many shows here at Riverwalk, most recently *Amadeus*, *Christmas Belles*, *Rocky Horror*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Big Fish*. Other credits include: *Doubt*, *Noises Off*, *Spamalot*, *Bud Not Buddy*, and *She Loves Me!* He has won five Barney Awards and two Thespies, plus many LCP Player awards. Bob taught set building for Okemos High School from 1996-2000. He regularly helps with our maintenance and improvement projects.

**Angie Schwab (MUSIC CONSULTANT)** – Angie had a great time advising on this show. She was last seen directing music for *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Riverwalk. She currently resides in Holt with her husband, Dave, her heart dog, Charlie, and two cats. Angie is looking forward to music directing *Urinetown* and *First Date* at Riverwalk in the upcoming season. Thank you to the cast and crew of *James and the Giant Peach* for being so hardworking and bringing this fun show to RWT audiences.

**Mike Sobocinski (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)** – Mike has previously been an assistant director for shows with the Andromeda Community Theatre and the Mid-Michigan Family Theatre groups. As a performer, he has been in more than 50 different projects on stage and screen. He enjoys reading, classic movies, music, games, and science. He occasionally teaches college courses while collecting additional degrees. Volunteer activities include Science Olympiad and Big Brothers Big Sisters (the local branch of which recently awarded him its first annual Big Impact prize). Challenge Mike to a game of chess sometime, if you dare!

**Elisha Smith (STAGE MANAGER & SCENOGRAPHER)** – Elisha is thrilled to be back behind the curtain making magic happen for *James and the Giant Peach!* Elisha is a board member and executive member here at Riverwalk Theatre, and you may have seen her previous scenography work in *Rocky Horror*, *Christmas Belles*, or *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Elisha began her theater journey in Wyoming, but considers Riverwalk her home now! She is so thankful for the lifelong friends she has made and the community she gets to be a part of here at RWT.

**Kaelynn Smith (STAGE CREW)** – This is Kaelyn's third show helping with crew. She has previously worked on *Noises Off* and *Elephant Man*. She is excited to work with her parents on crew and watch her sister perform. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Michelle Smith (PROPS/STAGE CREW)** – This is Michelle's fifth time working on a show at Riverwalk. She previously worked crew for *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Elephant Man* and *Misery* and also served as stage manager for *Noises Off*. She has enjoyed the challenge of doing props for this show and really enjoys working backstage. She is excited to be watching one of her daughters from backstage while working with another and her husband on stage crew. Enjoy the show!

**Tracy Smith (PROPS/STAGE CREW)** – This is Tracy's fifth show at Riverwalk being backstage. He previously worked on *Noises Off*, *Elephant Man*, *Misery*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. He enjoys being on stage and backstage. He is looking forward to watching his daughter perform in this show. Hope you love the show!

**Linda Widener (DIRECTOR)** – Over a number of decades, Linda has been involved with numerous productions at Riverwalk Theatre in many different capacities. Solo-directing her first musical production presented numerous challenges to overcome and opportunities to learn. Throughout the process she has thoroughly enjoyed working with her amazing and talented cast. She is immensely grateful for the dedication and commitment shown, not just by the cast, but also by the crew and production team who have worked so hard to bring *James and the Giant Peach* to life.

**Ben Warfield (BACKSTAGE CREW)** – Ben is happy to work on *James and the Giant Peach* at Riverwalk Theatre. He has been part of many shows in the Detroit area and looks forward to getting onstage soon in Lansing.

# Autographs

Ask your favorite characters to sign your program booklet after the show!





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# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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**Riverwalk can't survive on ticket sales alone. Your membership is a vote for continuing dependable, accessible, quality, community theatre.** Membership runs July–June. Members vote for the Board and are invited to our Annual Meeting before the Barney Awards in June. Our Ripples newsletter is emailed to all for fastest delivery, however Members and Season Ticket Holders may receive a mailed, paper copy on special request.

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**Lansing, MI 48901**

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**ANGEL: \$1000+**

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## IN MEMORY OF KEN BEACHLER

Justin & Estina Banks

Katie Doyle

Lee Helder

Janet Lockwood

Jeff Magnuson & Amy Rickett

Ralph Sims

Michael Siracuse

Laura Stebbins

Ron & Susan Swenson

Mark & Jane Zussman

## IN MEMORY OF SHARON STRAUBEL

Ralph Sims

## IN MEMORY OF WARREN (TIM) BEAM

Mark & Jane Zussman

## IN HONOR OF LEE HELDER'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Ralph Sims

## HONORING BOB MELLOR & ROGER ROCHOWIAK

David & Karen Viele

## IN MEMORY OF TOM HELMA

Gloria & Bill Purosky

Katie Doyle

James & Carla Pocan

## IN MEMORY OF CHRIS GOECKEL

Susan Chmurynsky

Emily & Gordon Clark

Bruce & Diane Cooke

Susan DeRosa

Tim & Sue Dundon

Lee Helder

James & Janet Houska

Michelle Knauf

Jeff Magnuson & Amy Rickett

Thomas & Vicki McCall

Bob Nees & Mary K Hodges Nees

Mark Polzin

Gloria & Bill Purosky

Greg & Denise Pratt

Bob & Suzanne Robinson

Jan Ross

James Schutte

Lisa Todd

Mark & Jane Zussman

# MEMBERS

## Community Circle Players at Riverwalk

### ANGEL

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Janet Anderson  
Diane Ashera  
Sam & Mary Austin  
Diane Ashera  
Katherine & Max Baisel  
Brian Farnham  
Leon Green  
Lee Helder  
Jack & Marge Hetherington  
Douglas Kempf  
Janet Lockwood  
Nancy Muhlbach  
Bob Mellor & Roger Rochowiak  
Dan & Lisa Pappas  
Bob Purosky & Michele Booher  
Ric Sadler  
Lonny & Judy Snow  
Polo Tate  
Rick Wendorf  
Dave & Liane Zimny  
Mark & Jane Zussman

### STAR

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Kathy Booth  
Nick & Darcy Bozen  
Harlow Claggett & Diane Smith  
Georgia E. Curry  
Susan DeRosa  
Mary Job & Jim Stewart  
Fran & Dave Ludington  
Karen McGowan  
Martin & Laurie Mecher  
Bonnie & Dick Radway  
Kelly Sandula-Gruner • Gruner Graphics  
Robert & Janice Skabic  
David & Karen Viele  
Linda Widener

### PRODUCER

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Bill Banghart  
Rod & Luanne Beaudry  
Kathy Booth  
Margaret Bossenberg  
Charles Calati &  
Kathleen Johnston-Calati  
Gordon & Emily Clark  
Laura Clark-Roumpz  
Scott DeWald & Deborah Jameson  
Phyllis Easton  
Carolyn Ellis Logan  
Tom & Carol Ferris  
Tom Klunzinger  
Jeff Magnuson & Amy Rickett  
Scott Mandel & Maureen Dyer  
Carin & Jim McEvoy  
Allison & Sebastian Meyer  
Gordon Miracle  
Sandy Norton  
Althea Phillips  
Steven & Shirley Robinson  
Bill St. John & Susan Nehf  
Ron & Susan Swenson  
Gordon & Connie Swix  
Robert & Joan Trezise  
Richard D. Weingartner  
Carolyn White  
Jim & Rose Zacks



We would like to express our gratitude to the friends who have generously supported Riverwalk Theatre this season. If we have inadvertently left your name off this list, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may make the correction. This list is current as of **May 1, 2024**.

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## DIRECTOR

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Donna Aberlich	Edric & Brandi Haleen	Gay Oliver
Bonnie Allmen	Erin Hoffman	Claudia & Matt Ottinger
The Bowen Family	Charles Hoogstraten	Scott Pohl
Carol Bray	Beth Hubbell	Greg & Denise Pratt
Susan Chmurynsky	Karen & Jerry Jennings	Bob & Suzanne Robinson
Joe & Kate Clark	Mary Elaine Kiener	Merry Rosenberg
The Cooke Family	Dave & Gina Kuerbitz	Jan & Michael Ross
Leroy Cupp	Judith Labovitz	Jaideep Singh
Denise & Jenni Daniel	Annie Lambrecht	Laverne & Jeff Small (IMO)
Rachel & Ian Daugherty	Gini Larson	Gerald (Jerry) Smith
Susan Davis	Carolyn Logan	Barbara & Geoffrey Stauffer
Jessica Dorado	Ron & Judy Lott	Gordon & Shelia Taylor
Dale & Dianna Dummer	Bernie Lucas	Madeline & Robert Walter Trimby
Carmine Eason	Amanda Macomber	Bob & Sally Tubbs
Marcus Fields	Mara McGill	Julian VanDyke
Carolyn Ellis Logan	Amelia Mestelle	Glenda Whiting
Zach Everly	Robert Nees & Mary K Hodges-Nees	Craig & Diane Minor Young
Alan & Suzanne Greenberg	Irvin Nichols	

## STAGE MANAGER

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Mary Avery	Kameron & Taren Going	Ralph Sims
Jackie Borszich	Julie Hartley	Lauren Spadafora
Colleen Bethea	Taylor Haslett	Carol Stonebrook
Holly Kay Cannon	Marie Kuntz	Ron & Agnes Thill
Diana Catallo-Porter	Jeff Litten	Joe & Cele Tuchinsky
Jim DeLine	Ron McNeill	Aaron Wittbrodt
Jim & Jan Fry	Mary Jane Schuon	Nathan Wood
Kelly Garland	Mike Shalley	

## TECHNICIAN

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Dawn Beaver	Annsie Lambrecht
Caila Conklin	Cheryl Leece
Kirk A. Domer	Tricia Rogers
Elizabeth Evangelista	Heath Sartorius
Danny Ferris	Rachel Schumann
Tom Heideman & Mary Koenigsnecht	Cody Skalmowski
Kayla Henry	Ben Warfield
Quinn Kelly	Dawn Welch

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Jack & Marge Hetherington  
Dan & Lisa Pappas

# SEASON 35 BARNEY AWARDS

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024:** join us for a celebration of Riverwalk Theatre's 35th season! Led by our wonderful emcee, Matt Ottinger, we'll reminisce about some of our favorite scenes and songs from this season's shows, look ahead to season 36, present awards covering all aspects of theatre, and enjoy food and drink with friends.

Cocktail attire is encouraged, but most importantly, we want you to come as you are most comfortable.

Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. with food and drinks. Ceremony to follow at 7 on our main stage.

This event is free. We hope to see all those involved in this season's productions AND folks from our Riverwalk family in attendance.

Summer events and the latest news at [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com)



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