

SHOWBILL

WVU CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

Peter and the Starcatcher

A PLAY BY RICK ELICE

Based on the Novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

MUSIC BY WAYNE BARKER



A Hatful of Rain

by Michael V. Gazzo

"A Hatful of Rain" is presented by
special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



THE NEW
West Virginia Public Theatre
SUMMER SEASON 2018

WELCOME TO THE GLADYS G. DAVIS THEATRE FOR WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE'S 2018 SUMMER SEASON!

Thank you for joining us for this performance of *Peter and the Starcatcher* or *A Hatful of Rain*.

West Virginia Public Theatre is a professional, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to enhance the cultural environment of the state and region by providing quality professional programming and educational outreach experience for all citizens. Please help support our Core Values as we endeavor to:

- Entertain and inspire audiences with quality professional theatre
- Employ honorable and responsible business practices with our community partners
- Education the youth of the state and region to the wonders of theatre
- Enhance the economic and cultural environment of our region

WVPT is appreciative of the support of its patrons who, with their tax-deductible gifts and ticket purchases, help sustain operations and productions. We are grateful to our donors and sponsors for their support over the years. Their investments have allowed us to remain West Virginia's premiere theatre company. Thank you to our Board of Trustees, staff, and company for your dedication to making this summer season a success.

We are thrilled to be able to offer professional opportunities to local West Virginia theatre artists as well as visiting company members from across the United States and abroad: Our summer company ranges from graduating WV students taking on their first professional roles to Equity performers from New York and London, and everyone in-between! This diverse collaboration creates an exciting opportunity to develop the artistic landscape of West Virginia and invest in the future of our state.

To learn more about West Virginia Public Theatre or to make a donation, please visit our website – www.wvpublictheatre.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram (@wvpublictheatre). And don't miss this year's Holiday production – *It's a Wonderful Life!*

Thank you again for your continued support. Enjoy the show!



Douglas M. Leech, President-Elect
Board of Trustees
West Virginia Public Theatre






Business Office Information

PO Box 6082
Morgantown, WV 25606
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Emergencies

In the unlikely event of an emergency, you will be directed by the house management to the best method of exiting the theatre and building. Please notice the illuminated exit signs in the theatre. For your safety and the safety of others, please exit as calmly as possible.

Refunds and Exchanges

All sales are final; however, WVPT will utilize the ticket exchange policy laid out by the Arts & Entertainment Box Office: Exchanges may be made at the Mountainlair or Creative Arts Center Box Office during regular box office hours. Tickets cannot be exchanged at the Creative Arts Center outside of regular business hours. \$5 fee/ticket.

Food and Drink

Please, no food or drink in the theatre.

Late Seating

All performances begin promptly at the show time. House staff will seat latecomers at an appropriate interval during the show. Patrons who must leave during the performance are kindly asked to do so between scenes.

Photography and Recording

No photography or video recording is permitted.

Electronics

Please be courteous to all cast, crew, musicians and fellow patrons by not utilizing electronic devices during the performances.

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SUPPORT WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE

In 2016, West Virginia Public Theatre partnered with the West Virginia University College of Creative Arts to give students the opportunity to network and study with professional actors, gaining real-world experience.

The New West Virginia Public Theatre enhances the cultural environment of the state and region by providing quality professional programming and educational outreach experiences for all citizens. All productions are built locally from start to finish making WVPT an important asset to the region both artistically and economically. The annual holiday show alone reaches more than 3,000 children from throughout the region. For many of these children, WVPT provides their first, and in some cases, only, exposure to live professional theatre.

Giving to the WVU College of Creative Arts / New West Virginia Public Theatre partnership changes the lives of fellow Mountaineers, local schoolchildren and enriches the culture of the region. Help us continue to bring live, professional-quality theatre to Morgantown and give WVU students a local venue to put their dreams into practice. Now more than ever, we need your support.

Join us in making an impact on tomorrow.

**DONATE SECURELY ONLINE AT WVPUBLICTHEATRE.ORG
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The Board of Trustees and Staff at the New West Virginia Public Theatre offer heartfelt thanks and acknowledgement to the organizations and individuals who have provided generous financial support. Your kind contributions are met with the warmest gratitude.

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Technical Director.....	Caila Shields
Master Carpenter.....	Shelby Pemberton
Production Stage Manager.....	Emily Stafford
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Music Director.....	R.J. Nestor
Pianist.....	Jake Sandridge
Scenic Designer.....	Robert Klingelhofer
Lighting and Sound Designer.....	Alan McEwen
Costume Designer.....	Mary McClung
Costume Shop Manager.....	Tiffany Delligatti
Prop Master.....	Imani Johnson
Scenic Artists.....	Lindsay Maiorano, James Raymond
Carpenters.....	Joe Bussey, Pauline Johnson, Rick Mugrage
Master Electrician.....	Sy Piatek
Sound Board Operator.....	Cassidy Sweeney
Technical Crew.....	Terrence Bennett, Emily Bishop, Grace Milliken
Costume Crew.....	Emily Bishop, Jared Munson, Madison Slusher

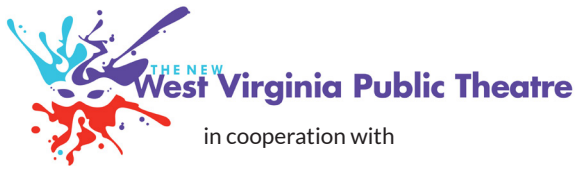


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At Huntington, we believe it's important to do more for the community. That's why we're proud to support the West Virginia Public Theatre and their tireless efforts to make a difference in the community.



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in cooperation with
 West Virginia University
SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE

presents



PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

Based on the Novel by Dave Berry and Ridley Pearson

A Play By Rick Elice

Music By Wayne Barker

Originally produced on Broadway by Nancy Nagel Gibbs, Greg Schaffert,
Eva Price, Tom Smedes, and Disney Productions

Directed by Lee Blair

JUNE 1-3 AND 6-10

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER is presented through
special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, New York,
NY. Tel: 212-541-4684. Fax: 212-397-4684. www.MTIShows.com

CAST

Boy (Peter).....	Alex Brown
Prentiss.....	Rachel Moore
Ted.....	Terrence J. Bennett
Lord Leonard Aster.....	John O'Connor
Molly Aster.....	Haley Hizer
Mrs. Bumbrake/Teacher.....	Hugh Hysell*
Captain Scott.....	Sergio De La Espriella
Gremplin/Mack/Sanchez/Fighting Prawn.....	Ben Tracy
Bill Slank/Hawking Clam.....	Andrew Lyons
Alf.....	Caroline Dawson
Black Stache.....	James Kenon Mitchell
Smee.....	Tommy Schoffler*
Ensemble.....	Cody Hively
Ensemble.....	Edward Cyphert

*The actor appears through courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

PLAYWRIGHT INFORMATION

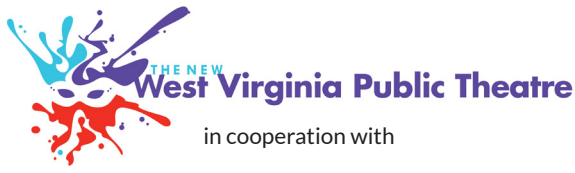
Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser, and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 70,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 60 countries worldwide.

MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior™ shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia).

RICK ELICE

B'way: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Jersey Boys* (with Marshall Brickman, Bob Gaudio, Bob Crewe; directed by Des McAnuff: Tony Award, Best Musical); *The Addams Family* (with Marshall Brickman, Andrew Lipka; directed by Jerry Zaks). Regional: *Turn of the Century* (with Marshall Brickman; directed by Tommy Tune); *Double Double* (directed by Roger Rees); *Dog and Pony* (with Michael Patrick Walker); *Studio 54* (with Stephen Trask, Peter Yanowitz; directed by Christopher Ashley).



in cooperation with
 West Virginia University
SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE

presents



A HATFUL OF RAIN

by Michael V. Gazzo

Directed by Jerry McGonigle

JUNE 20-24

“A Hatful of Rain” is presented by
special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

CAST

Johnny Pope.....Matt Webster
Polo Pope.....Mack Kale
John Pope, Sr.....Richard McWilliams*
Mother.....Andy Lyons
Church.....Edward Cyphert
Apples.....Sergio De La Espriella
Celia Pope.....Sadie Bell Freeman
Putski.....Heidi Tolson

**The actor appears through courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

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DIRECTORS



Lee Blair (Production Director, *Peter and the Starcatcher*) is an Associate Professor of Acting with West Virginia University and has helmed productions at WVU, West Virginia Public Theatre (including *Young Frankenstein* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*), Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, and St. John's University/ College of Saint Benedict. His career as an actor has included works off-Broadway, off-off Broadway, and regionally with West Virginia Public Theatre, Emelin Theatre, Hippodrome State Theatre, and Alhambra Dinner Theatre. He is a proud Associate member of the Stage

Directors and Choreographers Society and a member of Actor's Equity Association (since 1997). Instagram: @lelandbruceblair



Jerry McGonigle (Production Director, *A Hatful of Rain*) is Artistic Director of West Virginia Public Theatre. Jerry came to WVU in 1990 from Orange County, CA, where he designed, founded and ran the Professional Actors Conservatory at Rancho Santiago College. Jerry has both acted and directed nationally and internationally at such theatres as E.T.A. Hoffman Theatre, 100 Monkeys Productions, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Pac Theatre Co., Missouri Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, and the Missouri Shakespeare Festival. He holds a BA from the University of Dallas and an MFA in Acting from The

American Conservatory Theatre of San Francisco.



R.J. Nestor (Music Director) is a musician, writer, and communication coach. He is pleased to be back for a twelfth season with WVPT. R.J. has composed original music for several plays, including the Chicago premiere of *Moon Over Buffalo*. With collaborator David Scoville, R.J. has co-written three original musicals. Their most recent, *Golden Horseshoe*, celebrates West Virginia's history. (www.ghmusical.com). They also write screenplays, including *Out of the Depths*, about the 1968 mine disaster in Farmington, WV. As a communication coach, R.J. helps individuals and businesses master their message and communicate with confidence. WVPT

credits include *Carousel*, *My Fair Lady*, and *West Side Story*. *Love to Elisha*, *Daisy*, *Wes*, *A.J.*, and family. www.nestorvoice.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Caribbean Nights Fundraiser

HOSTED BY WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE

Saturday, July 14th, 2018 at Forks of Cheat Winery.

Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirts and flip flops and join us for an evening of live entertainment, raffles, and Caribbean cuisine! Visit www.wvpublictheatre.org to find out more.

DESIGNERS



Robert Klingelhoef (Scenic Designer) is the Professor of Scenic Design and Director of the Design & Technology Program at West Virginia University where he has taught since 2005. He has designed four previous productions for WVPT since its reorganization and affiliation with WVU: *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way on the Way to the Forum*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Sylvia*. This year he designs *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Hatful of Rain*. Professor Klingelhoef continues his professional career of 40 years with recent work at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, the Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick, ME, and the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, PA where he was the resident designer for 20 years. He also has extensive Off- and Off-Off-Broadway credits in New York where he was resident designer for two companies, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre and the Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre. In February he designed the 2018 Galat for WVU Children's Hospital.



Alan McEwen (Lighting and Sound Designer) joined the School of Theatre & Dance in 2008. Previous work experience includes Whitman College, Idaho Repertory Theatre, Mountain State Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Wyoming Summer Stock Theatre, and The Columbine Players. Alan has taught in higher education for 20 years in various duties and capacities focusing on lighting, sound, stagecraft, and contemporary theatre. Lighting and sound credits include musicals, opera, theatre, dance, and performance art in addition to system consulting, design and installation. Alan received his MFA in Lighting from the University of Oregon and is a member of USITT.



Mary McClung (Costume Designer) has designed costumes, puppets, and sets for theatre, video, and television. Companies include Disney, Children's Television Workshop, Universal Studios, Dallas Children's Theatre, The Idaho Repertory Theatre and The Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Design credits include: *As You Like It*, *The Dining Room*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Life of Insects*, *The Beggar's Opera*, *Henry IV part I and II*, *Great God Brown*, *The Seagull*, *Three Sisters*, *Sesame Barrio* (*Sesame Street*, *Spain*), *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Big Friendly Giant*, and *Tartuffe*. Designs while at WVU: *Guys and Dolls*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Dracula*, *Another Part of the Forest*, *Hamlet*, *The World Goes Round*, and 4 dance concerts. McClung has also taught at The University of Dallas (Dallas, Texas) and Whitman College (Walla Walla, Washington) where she also worked as a guest designer. McClung was awarded The 2002 Dallas Critic's Award for Costume Design for *The Beggar's Opera*.

SUMMER COMPANY



Terrence J. Bennett (Ted) is an alum of Marymount Manhattan College. National Tour: *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!* Regional: Smithsonian Institute's Discovery Theater, Kennedy Center, Compass Rose Theater, Toby's Dinner Theater. Theme Parks: Six Flags America & Discovery Kingdom, Busch Gardens Williamsburg. Concerts: *The Yojo Show!*, Chessie Jam Children's Music Festival. TV: *The 700 Club*. Selected credits: Rum Tum Tugger (*Cats*), Hud (*Hair*), Ensemble (*Ragtime*), Bill Powell (*Bessie & Bill: Black Wings in Flight*). Thanks to Leland Blair and West Virginia Public Theatre for the "great adventure"!



Alexander Brown (Boy/Peter) is thrilled to begin his professional career after graduating with a BFA in Musical Theatre from West Virginia University. Alexander has previously appeared in WVU's productions of *The Three Musketeers* (Ensemble), *Assassins* (Czolgosz), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate/Police), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Coneybear), and *Kiss Me, Kate* (Nathaniel). Alexander has also spent the previous four summers touring with the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps Color Guard. Alexander would like to thank the cast, his friends and family, and everybody that made this show possible. Enjoy the show!



Edward Cyphert (Ensemble/ Church) is a junior at West Virginia University pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. He has previously been seen in West Virginia University's productions of *Spring Awakening*, *The Nether*, and *Assassins*. He would like to thank Lee Blair for casting him in this production.



Caroline Dawson (Alf) is an upcoming senior in West Virginia University's School of Theatre & Dance. She is on track to graduate in May of 2019 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. Caroline recently adapted August Strindberg's play *Miss Julie* into a one woman show titled *Miss Julie: (Not) Guilty*. She directed, alongside Professors Irene Alby and Radhica Ganapathy, while performing as Miss Julie. Other roles include Cecilia Johnson in *Fefu and Her Friends*, Amanda in *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, Shirley in *Criminal Genius*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and Sara in *Hush*. Caroline would like to thank Lee Blair for the opportunity to work on such a

beautiful show with an incredible cast and crew.



Sergio De La Espriella (Captain Scott/ Apples) is a recent graduate of the University of Florida where he earned his B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Credits include: Usnavi in *In the Heights*, Hanschen in *Spring Awakening*, Bill Calhoun in *Kiss Me, Kate!*, Pace in *Thank God for AIDS* (World Premiere), and East in *Almost, Maine*. When he is not onstage, Sergio is the co-host of the sports podcast Sideline Judgement (@SJ_Podcast) which you can find on Apple Podcasts. He would like to thank his friends and family for all the love and support they provide. You can follow him on Twitter and Instagram @sdelaes. Te amo Mamá.



Sadie Bell Freeman (Celia Pope) is a recent graduate of The University of South Alabama. She is tickled pink with excitement to be playing Celia Pope in West Virginia Public Theatre's production of *A Hatful of Rain*. She hopes you will enjoy her first professional full-length performance as she begins her acting career. Believe it or not, when she was first thrown unwillingly into her high school theatre class, she wanted nothing more than to escape! Little did she know that it would become something strange and beautiful that she couldn't live without. Since then she has been a part of every show possible, whether on stage or off. The most cathartic experiences thus far have been playing Nina in Chekhov's *The Seagull*, Raymonde Chandebise in Feydeau's *A Flea in Her Ear*, and Angel in Medoff's *When You Comin' Back Red Ryder*. She has a strange gut feeling that this production may soon be added to that list too.



Cody Hively (Ensemble) is an American actor born in this very beautiful state of West Virginia. He graduated with a BFA in Acting from WVU this past spring 2018. His college mainstage credits include Monsieur De Treville (*Three Musketeers*), Andrei (*Three Sisters*), Simon (*Exit, Pursued By a Bear*), and Kiss Me Kate. Other training includes his *Acting For Film* with the New York Film Academy in 2015. He received a recommended pass for his Weapon Style Combat training in 2018. Not shy to the camera, Cody has starred in and written short films that have competed in The Grove Film Festival, Miami Independent Film Festival, and Terminus. He has also starred in a commercial for Gold Star Chili. His hobbies include reading, skateboarding, photography, and Fortnite. This is Cody's debut for his professional acting career.

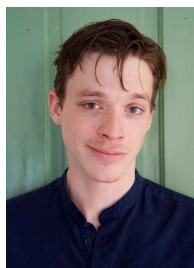


Haley Hizer (Molly Aster) is entering her final year at West Virginia University in the BFA Musical Theatre program. Some collegiate productions include *Spring Awakening* (Ilse), *Noises Off* (Brooke), *Dog Sees God* (Van), and *Exit Pursued by a Bear* (Sweet-heart). Regional: *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), WVPT's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Lucy) and Theatre WV's *Hatfields and McCoy's* (Alifair McCoy). Haley would like to thank her parents, of course, for their never-ending support and encouragement. Also, much thanks to Lee Blair and the cast for this fun-filled and adventurous summer - for you I'll be British to the bone!



Hugh Hysell (Mrs. Bumbrake/ Teacher) Hugh was on the original Broadway producing team of *Peter and the Starcatcher* and is thrilled to revisit this show from the other side of the footlights. Performance credits include national tours (*The Phantom of the Opera*, *Pippin*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Fantasticks*), Off Broadway (*Perfect Crime*, *More Than All The World*, *My Big Gay Italian Wedding / Funeral*, plus performances at Town Hall, Carnegie Hall, 54 Below, NYMF and Geffen Hall), regional theater (*Million Dollar Quartet* at Totem Pole Playhouse, *Tintypes* at 7 Angels, *Greater Tuna* in Philadelphia, *Buddy* at Gateway, *Man of La Mancha* at Jupiter

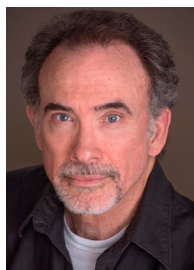
Theater, 110 in the Shade at Dorset Theater Festival, plus 5 different productions of *A Christmas Carol*) and TV (including HBO's *Divorce*, *Suddenly Rich* on TLC, *Happy* on syfy, *After Forever* on Amazon Video). Like most NYC actors, Hugh has indeed appeared on *Law and Order*. Hugh is a Tony Award® winning producer whose NYC producing projects include *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The All-Male Importance Of Being Earnest* (starring Lee Blair) and others. He is a founding member of The Off Broadway Alliance and currently serves as a nominator for the Off Broadway Alliance Awards. Training: UNC-Greensboro College of Performing Arts (BFA Acting), University of Florida (MFA Acting). www.HughHysell.com, Insta/FB: @hughhysell



Mack Kale (Polo Pope) recently concluded his studies as an actor at WVU and will be moving to NYC this summer in pursuit of a career in acting. Collegiate: *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Three Sisters* (Tuzenbach), *Bug* (Peter), *Spring Awakening* (Melchior Gabor) Regional: *Romeo and Juliet* (Balthazar), *Young Frankenstein* (Igor). He would like to thank his director and mentor Jerry McGonigle for his guidance and the cast for their work and care.



Andrew Lyons (Bill Slank/ Hawking Clam /Mother) is a Brooklyn, NY based actor, director, and handyman to the stars. In the 13 years since earning his M.F.A. right here at WVU, Andrew has been seen on stage in all sorts of roles all over the country. He is absolutely thrilled to be back in Morgantown for this production. Many thanks go out to Lee Blair, Jerry McGonigle, everyone at WVPT, and the tireless and talented actors in this production! Thanks also to my biggest fans - April, Walter, and Omar!



Richard McWilliams (John Pope, Sr.) Theatre: *Harvey*, *Mornings at Seven*, *33 Variations*, *The Vast Difference* and *Annapurna* (The Purple Rose Theatre Co., Resident Artist), *The Price* (Syracuse Stage and Geva Theatre Center), *Long Day's Journey into Night* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), *Broadway Bound* (Drury Lane Theatre), *Underneath the Lintel* and *Pure Confidence* (Florida Studio Theater), *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and *Richard III* (Kansas City Repertory Theatre) and *Desire Under the Elms* (The Guthrie Theater). Film: *Guest Artist* (with Jeff Daniels). He's very pleased to be a part of this production with WVPT. Thanks and love to Terri and Lindsay.



James Kenon Mitchell (Black Stache) was born in Rochester, NY and is currently in his third year as Visiting Assistant Professor and Interim Head of Opera Theatre at West Virginia University. At WVU, he has led performances of Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*, Hindemith's *Hinn und Zurück*, Menotti's *The Medium*, and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. He also served as music director for WVU Opera on Wheels touring outreach productions of Edward Barnes' *Mystery on the Docks* and *Papagayo*. With WVPT Mr. Mitchell has been musical director for *A Christmas Carol*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Mr. Mitchell has worked as a pianist for the Bayerische

Theater Akademie August Everding and Tulsa Opera and as Assistant to the Music Staff at Sarasota Opera. Mr. Mitchell was an Adjunct Professor of Musical Theater at the University of West Florida in the 2010/11 academic year where he led performances of *Brigadoon* and *A Christmas Carol*. Mr. Mitchell holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Theory from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and Opera Coaching from Westminster Choir College.



Rachel Moore (Prentiss) is a WVU alum currently living here in Morgantown. She graduated with her BFA in Acting last May. She has also appeared in WVPT's productions of *A Christmas Carol* and *Young Frankenstein*. She currently has no plans for the future; please don't ask. Maybe just give her a hug instead. She thanks Lee Blair for the opportunity to be in one of her favorite shows as well as the cast, crew, and everyone involved!



John O'Connor (Lord Leonard Aster) is a Professor/Senior Level: Theatre Arts at Fairmont State University. He has acted professionally in Chicago, Seattle, and West Virginia, and has appeared in numerous FSU Masquers and Town & Gown productions. Favorite roles include Cervantes in *Man of LaMancha*, Fagin in *Oliver!*, Thurston Wheelis, et al in *Greater Tuna*, Joe Keller in *All My Sons*, Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and Father in *Children of Eden*, all for FSU; Nick in *The Guys* for Vintage Theatre Company; Lear in *The Rustic Mechanicals' King Lear*; The Bishop in *Les Miserables* and Marley's Ghost/Christmas Future in *A Christmas Carol* for West Virginia Public Theatre. O'Connor's

directing credits include plays by Sophocles, Euripides, Shakespeare, Moliere, Ibsen, Chekhov, Miller, Sondheim, Ionesco, Pinter, Handke, Orton, Elizabeth Robins, Caryl Churchill, Wendy Weiner, Brooke Berman, and Lynn Nottage.



Tommy Schoffler (Smee): As a West Virginia high school student, Tommy Schoffler played John in a community theatre production of *Peter Pan* and is very happy to bring it full circle with his WVPT debut. Other favorite regional performances include Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* (Perseverance Theatre, AK) Scarecrow in *Wizard of Oz* (Theatre West Virginia), Jinx in *Forever Plaid* (Oregon Cabaret Theatre), Finch in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Depot Theatre, NY), Yepihodov in *The Cherry Orchard*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Cripple Billy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Warehouse Theatre, SC), Touchstone in *As You Like It* (Theatre at Monmouth, ME) and David in *The Santaland Diaries*

(Greenbrier Valley Theatre; Sycamore Rouge). He has directed in New York for both the Connelly Theatre's Dark Nights Series and the SoHo Think Tank Series, and regionally for the The Theatre at Monmouth, The Depot Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, Sycamore Rouge, and North Carolina Stage Company. Associate Professor of Theatre Arts at WV Wesleyan College, Tommy is also a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and has presented masterclasses and workshops at Davis & Elkins College, Alderson-Broadus University, West Virginia University, Hollins University, Seton Hill University, the University of Alaska - Southeast, the University of Findlay, the University of Iowa, The University of Florida, Southeastern Theater Conference, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the NYC Asian American Writers' Workshop, Chanticleer Children's Chorus of WV, and the West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts.

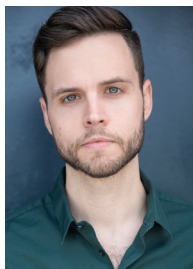


Heidi Tolson (Putski) is a recent graduate from WVU's BFA Acting program. Originally from Annapolis, Maryland, Heidi is thrilled to start out her post-grad career with WVPT, in her home away from home, Morgantown. Her recent productions in town include *The Three Musketeers* (Abbess), *Three Sisters* (Natasha), *Pericles* (Lorde of Tyre) and many more! Heidi has also worked with the Virginia Renaissance Faire, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, and The Talent Machine Company. This show, *A Hatful of Rain*, represented a pivotal point in Heidi's education and she would like to thank Jerry McGonigle for this extraordinary full-circle opportunity as well as her professors Jessica, Laura, Cathy, Lee, and

Cornel for the lessons they gave that got her to where she is now. She would also like to thank her parents for their unwavering support and inspiration. Heidi will be moving to New York City but knows that country roads will always take her home. Lastly, thank you to all who were a part of the ride. Here's a health to the company.



Ben Tracy (Gremppkin/ Mack/ Sanchez/ Fighting Prawn) is a native of Minneapolis who found his way to the East Coast by way of Ohio. Favorite regional credits include *Gross Indecency and Baskerville* with CATCO Theatre in Columbus, the world premiere of *Cowgirls Don't Ride Zebras* with CATCO in Kids, and *Charlotte's Web* with Old Log Theatre in Minneapolis. On the university stage, he was seen in *The Great Gatsby*, *The Music Man*, and *Peter Pan*, among other productions. Ben proudly holds a BFA in Acting from Wright State University.



Matt Webster (Johnny Pope) is a New York City based actor and writer. Matt made his Broadway debut this spring at the Hudson Theatre in DGF Toasts: Stephen Schwartz. In addition to performing in the show, Matt contributed the vocal arrangements. Matt has been seen onstage as Glad Hand in the Broadway Tour of West Side Story, the Coalman in the tour of Hanna and the Moonlit Dress, and with many companies throughout NYC, including: LaMaMa Theatre, LABA Theatre, Vital Theatre, Connecticut Children's Theatre, and Rescue Agreement. Matt can also be seen on screen in various feature films, commercials, web-series, and short films. As a writer, Matt's first musical, Kingdom Come

(originally developed at WVU), won Best Musical at the Downtown Urban Theatre Festival in NYC. His second original musical, Propaganda! The Musical was produced at the Pearl Theatre on 42nd St. as part of the New York Musical Theatre Festival. It won several awards, including: Best Featured Actress and Best Choreography and will make its international debut at the Gaetnerplatz Theatre in Munich, Germany in July. Matt received his BFA in Acting from West Virginia University where he was named the outstanding graduate from the College of Creative Arts. Matt won the 2016 Johnny Mercer Award for Songwriting and currently works as assistant to Broadway's Andrew Lippa. www.TheOtherMattWebster.com

West Virginia Public Theatre

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The Diary of Anne Frank

Oct. 18 - 22, 2018
Metropolitan Theatre
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Dance Now!

Feb. 28 - Mar. 2, 2019
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