



# Beautiful

## The Carole King Musical

MARCH 28 - APRIL 13, 2025



NEAR WEST THEATRE PRESENTS

# Beautiful

## The Carole King Musical

"WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, OR FALL, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL..."

**MARCH 28 - APRIL 13, 2025**

PERFORMANCES: MARCH 28, 29 & APRIL 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, & 13

SPRING MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

RUNTIME: 2 HOURS & 15 MINUTES, 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

BOOK BY  
DOUGLAS MCGRATH

WORDS AND MUSIC BY  
GERRY GOFFIN & CAROLE KING      BARRY MANN & CYNTHIA WEIL

MUSIC BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING

ORCHESTRATIONS, VOCAL AND INCIDENTAL MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS  
STEVE SIDWELL

ADDITIONAL MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS BY  
JASON HOWLAND

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY  
PAUL BLAKE      SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING      MIKE BOSNER

BEAUTIFUL IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. [WWW.MTISHOWS.COM](http://WWW.MTISHOWS.COM).

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# Tapestry

Near West Theatre's  
ANNUAL BENEFIT  
*MAY 17, 2025*





OUR 2025-2026 SEASON  
OWN YOUR OWN STORY

# HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

Art © by SpotCo

JULY 18 - AUG. 3



Next to Normal

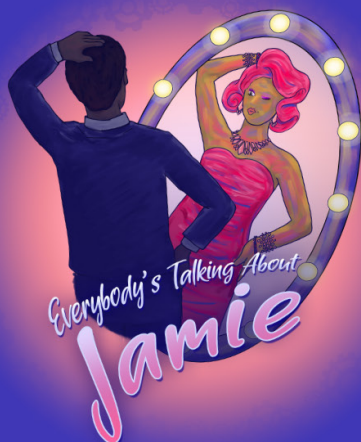
SEPT. 19 - SEPT. 28



NOV. 21 - DEC. 7



FEB. 6 - FEB. 22



APRIL 17 - MAY 3



# THE TEAM

**TRINIDAD SNIDER**  
DIRECTOR

**RACHEL WOODS**  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**CASSANDRA MILLER**  
CHOREOGRAPHER

**JULIE BILLINGHURST**  
STAGE MANAGER

**JESSE UGUCCINI**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER

**LAURA CARLSON TARANTOWSKI**  
SCENIC DESIGNER

**MIA JONES**  
PROPS DESIGNER

**VANESSA COOK**  
COSTUME DESIGNER

**PERREN HEDDERSON**  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**JAMES ROMEO**  
SOUND DESIGNER

**EMILY HEHNEN**  
ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**MICHAEL STEIN**  
PRODUCTIONS & RENTALS MANAGER

**JEN HITMAR-SHANKLAND**  
SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST

**JOSHUA CARABALLO**  
AUDIO ENGINEER/SOUND ASSISTANT

**KENEDY BROOKS**  
ASST. STAGE MANAGER

**BRYCE COOK**  
WIG SUPERVISOR

**MEGHAN KRIEGER**  
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

**ELIZABETH O'HARA**  
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR



# THE TEAM

## MUSICIANS

CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARD 1 .....	RACHEL WOODS
KEYBOARD 2.....	ROBIN DAVIS
GUITAR .....	JESSE HODGSON
BASS .....	JASON STEBELTON
REEDS .....	KEITH TURNER
DRUMS .....	TIM HAMPTON
TRUMPET .....	JUAN INGRAM
REEDS (SUB) .....	MICHAEL MCCANN
DRUMS (SUB).....	BENJAMIN JACKSON

## CREW

BACKSTAGE.....	ALEX LAPPIN, RUSSELL MILLER, MAEVE GREISING& KATIE MOUNTS
SPOT OPERATORS.....	RED, JUSTIN BROWN, & NICK MAISTROS

## PUBLICITY

PRODUCTION ART DESIGNER.....	NOAH HRBEK
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# SPECIAL THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR HELPING US PUT THIS SHOW TOGETHER

BRYAN BIRD

ROBIN AND ZACH DAVIS

ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

# SPECIAL THANKS



ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT NEAR WEST THEATRE, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BALDWIN WALLACE CONSERVATORY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENABLING US TO UTILIZE THE STEINWAY & SONS BOSTON GRAND PIANO ON LOAN FROM BW FOR OUR PRODUCTION OF BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL.

SHELLEY & DOREEN ANDREWS-HINDERS

CHERYL BRISTOL

JASON BRISTOL & ALEX FRONDORF

THOMAS BUFORD

CHARLIE & ALICE BUTTS

EDWARD ERBACH

CHARLOTTE FOWLER

NICOLETTE JAWORSKI

GARY JOHNSON

CHARLES AND RITA MAIMBOURG

DAVID AND LESLEE MIRALDI

STEPHANIE MORRISON HRBEK

JAN ROLLER & DAVID ABBOTT

BRENDAN SHEEHAN

DIVYA AND NIGAMANTH SRIDHAR

PAUL NEUNDORFER AND TROY VALENTIK

SUSAN VANVORST

LINDA & CHRIS WARREN

DEB YANDALA



# THE CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

CAROLE KING ..... MOLLY ANDREWS-HINDERS  
GENIE KLEIN ..... CAROLE LEIBLINGER-HEDDERSON  
BETTY ..... KATHRYN O’SULLIVAN  
NEIL SEDAKA ..... SIMEON SCHMITT  
LUCILLE ..... MARIA MATTHEWS  
BOBBY VEE ..... ROBERT KOWALEWSKI  
DON KIRSHNER ..... DENNIS RUNKLE  
GERRY GOFFIN ..... MARK PACK  
THE DRIFTERS ..... GRANT GUYTON, DONNELL JAMES,  
ANTHONY WILLIAMS, & KELLEN WILLIAMS  
CYNTHIA WEIL ..... MARISSA LAHR  
BARRY MANN ..... ZACH PALUMBO  
THE SHIRELLES ..... PARIS BUNCH (DORIS), KYLA BURKS (SHIRLEY),  
SARA DANIELLE CHAPMAN (MICKY),  
& MARIA MATTHEWS (BEVERLY)  
JANELLE WOODS ..... SARA DANIELLE CHAPMAN  
LITTLE EVA ..... PARIS BUNCH  
THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS ..... ROBERT KOWALEWSKI & DAVID TURNER  
NICK ..... DAVID TURNER  
MARILYN WALD ..... SHANNON MCPEEK  
LOU ADLER ..... ERIN SHEPLAVY  
ENSEMBLE ..... BETHANY BECKHAM, TARA CLINTON,  
ELISA GAUNTNER, CONNOR KARBOSKI, SHANNON MCPEEK,  
EMILY MORGAN, KATHRYN O’SULLIVAN, PHIL PANTALONE,  
SIMEON SCHMITT, ERIN SHEPLAVY, DAVID TURNER,  
CATIE VOTAW, SYDNEY NOELLE WARREN, & RONALD WATKINS  
UNDERSTUDIES ..... EMILY MORGAN (CAROLE KING U/S),  
ROBERT KOWALEWSKI (GERRY U/S), CATIE VOTAW (CYNTHIS U/S),  
SIMEON SCHMITT (BARRY U/S), SYDNEY NOELLE WARREN (SHIRELLES U/S),  
RONALD WATKINS (DRIFTER U/S), TARA CLINTON (BETTY U/S),  
BETHANY BECKHAM (MARILYN WALD U/S), CONNOR KARBOSKI (NICK U/S),  
& PHIL PANTALONE (LOU ADLER U/S)

DANCE CAPTAIN: ELISA GAUNTNER

# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

I was drawn to Carole King's music before fully knowing how much she had influenced and changed the music industry. My mother shared all genres of music with me and my brothers growing up. It wasn't until a few years ago that I realized that Carole King was a part of many of these artists' creative journeys. I experienced this after watching the tour come through Cleveland with another woman who influenced my life over the past 36 years, Stephanie Morrison-Hrbek. It was a moment of shared understanding and connection, realizing that we were all part of a larger community influenced by King's music.

Stephanie is one of the many women in my life who have supported me artistically and personally. Her encouragement and guidance have been instrumental in my artistic journey. This project has allowed me to reconnect with some of those other women. I am so grateful for the artistry and talent of Rachel Woods, Cassandra Miller, Laura Carlson Tarantowski, Jesse Ugucini, Vanessa Cook, Mia Jones, Jen Hitmar-Shankland, Emily Hehnen, Kenedy Brooks, and Julie Billinghamurst. Their support and collaboration have enriched my work in ways I could never have imagined. I am also thankful to all of the other designers who helped support us femmes to tell this incredible story about a phenomenal artist.

What I love the most about Carole King's work are the stories it tells and how these stories are familiar and resonate with us all, regardless of the generation we belong to. Stories of love, hope, loss, self-love, and self-worth. She reminds us that we become more beautiful when we see beauty and others. As I approach my sixth year as Artistic Director for this organization, I have had the joy and honor of seeing and discovering so much beauty in our artistic community. Families who decide to do a show for the first time together. Adults and kids who want to find their voices but can't find a safe space to do so. Young folks who are reaching for their dreams and aren't afraid to just go for it. In a world with so much ugly, I'm so lucky to be surrounded by so much beauty. And that is rare and *BEAUTIFUL*.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Trinidad Snider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Trinidad Snider  
Director

# SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

### SCENE 1

SO FAR AWAY ..... CAROLE KING

### SCENE 2: KLEIN HOME, BROOKLYN/1960S BROADWAY

OH CAROL..... NEIL SEDAKA

1650 BROADWAY MEDLEY ..... ENSEMBLE

### SCENE 3 1650 BROADWAY, DONNY KIRSHNER'S OFFICE

IT MIGHT AS WELL RAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER ..... CAROLE KING

### SCENE 4: STUDENT LOUNGE, QUEEN'S COLLEGE

### SCENE 5: DONNY'S OFFICE

BE-BOP-A-LULA ..... ENSEMBLE

SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL ..... CAROLE KING, GERRY GOFFIN  
& THE DRIFTERS

### SCENE 6: CAROLE'S OFFICE AT 1650 BROADWAY

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN ..... CYNTHIA WEIL

TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY BABY ..... GERRY GOFFIN & CAROLE KING

### SCENE 7: BARRY'S OFFICE

WHO PUT THE BOMP ..... BARRY MANN

### SCENE 8: KLEIN HOME, BROOKLYN

### SCENE 9: 1650 BROADWAY, BARRY'S OFFICE

### SCENE 10: GERRY & CAROLE'S

WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW ..... CAROLE KING

### SCENE 11: 1650 BROADWAY

### SCENE 12: DONNY'S OFFICE

HE'S SURE THE BOY I LOVE ..... CYNTHIA WEIL & BARRY MANN

### SCENE 13: DONNY'S OFFICE

### SCENE 14: HALLWAY

### SCENE 15

WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW ..... THE SHIRELLES

### SCENE 16: 1650 BROADWAY/CAROLE & GERRY'S OFFICE

UP ON THE ROOF ..... GERRY GOFFIN & THE DRIFTERS

### SCENE 17

ON BROADWAY ..... THE DRIFTERS

### SCENE 18: GERRY & CAROLE'S OFFICE

### SCENE 19: AMERICAN BANDSTAND

THE LOCOMOTION ..... LITTLE EVA & ENSEMBLE

### SCENE 20: BARRY & CYNTHIA'S OFFICE

YOU'VE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING..... BARRY MANN  
& THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS

### SCENE 21: VERMONT SKI CHALET

### SCENE 22: TV STUDIO

ONE FINE DAY ..... JANELLE, CAROLE KING & ENSEMBLE



# SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS CONT'D

## ACT II

### SCENE 1: RECORDING STUDIO

CHAINS ..... CAROLE KING & ENSEMBLE

### SCENE 2: CYNTHIA'S OFFICE

WALKING IN THE RAIN ..... BARRY MANN & CYNTHIA WEIL

### SCENE 3: CAROLE AND GERRY'S OFFICE

### SCENE 4-5: HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

### SCENE 6

PLEASANT VALLEY SUNDAY ..... MARILYN WALD, GERRY GOFFIN  
& ENSEMBLE

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE ..... BARRY MANN

### SCENE 7: MARILYN'S APARTMENT

### SCENE 8: HOUSE IN SUBURBS

WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW (REPRISE) ..... CAROLE KING

### SCENE 9: THE BITTER END

UPTOWN..... "UPTOWN" SINGER & ENSEMBLE

IT'S TOO LATE ..... CAROLE KING & ENSEMBLE

### SCENE 10: 1650 BROADWAY, DONNY'S OFFICE

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND ..... CAROLE KING, BARRY MANN,  
CYNTHIA WEIL & DON KIRSHNER

### SCENE 11: RECORDING STUDIO, LA

(YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE) A NATURAL WOMAN..... CAROLE KING  
& ENSEMBLE

### SCENE 12: CARNEGIE HALL DRESSING ROOM

BEAUTIFUL ..... CAROLE KING & ENSEMBLE

### SCENE 13: CARNEGIE HALL

I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE..... CAROLE KING & COMPANY

# SPECIAL THANKS



Community is at the heart of everything we do! We hosted our fourth community meal, gathering with 56 wonderful friends from May Dugan Center, St. Herman's House, and our 2025 Annual Benefit Rev. George Hrbek Social Justice Award recipient, Re:Source CLE. Attendees enjoyed a meal before watching the final dress rehearsal of our production, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* – for some, it was their first time getting to experience the magic of live theatre.

Thanks to generous donations from our amazing community and the Congregation of St. Joseph, we enjoyed delicious food from K & K Portage Market.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our wonderful volunteers and donors, whose kindness made this gathering truly special, and to our attendees who remind us that theatre truly is for everyone.

Special shoutout to our generous community members for their support: Christopher Sgarlata, Dennis Runkle, Kristy Cruz, The Aust Family, Sarah Durham, Sarah Tan, Sarah Vas, Shamus Dickinson, The Garcia Rockas Family, Vickey McBride, and Zach Palumbo; and to our dedicated volunteers: Kimberly Melville, Joanne Kalynchuk, NWT Board of Trustees President, Ken Kalynchuk, and Board Member, Kristy Cruz!

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST

**Molly Andrews-Hinders** (*Carole King*) (She/Her) is a songwriter, creator, and performance artist. She wrote the music for *Velveteen, A New Musical* which premiered at Playhouse Square in Oct 2024. Molly's work has been featured at Maelstrom Collaborative Arts, Cleveland Public Theatre, Borderlight Fringe Festival, and more. Molly is the proud recipient of the 2024 Individual Artist Award through Assembly for the Arts and 2024 Kulas Composing Fellowship at Cleveland Public Theatre. Her ensemble Emergence will release their debut album this spring. Big thank you to Trinidad and the entire NWT team for continuing to invest in loving, healing, and dynamic community spaces. (mollyandrewshinders.com)

**Bethany Beckham** (*Ensemble/Marilyn Wald u/s*) (She/Her) is thrilled to be back at Near West after last appearing in *The Wizard of Oz* (Aunt Em/Glinda). Other favorite roles: *Into the Woods* (The Witch), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), and *The Wedding Singer* (Julia). She is a licensed speech pathologist specializing in voice and upper airway disorders at Cleveland Clinic's Voice Center. When Bethany is not onstage, you can find her at the climbing gym, buying more houseplants, or spending time with her fiancé Alicia, their dog Leo and one-eyed cat Alfie. Here's to a *Beautiful* production!

**Paris Bunch** (*Shirelle - Doris/Little Eva*) (She/Her) is a sophomore at Baldwin Wallace University for Music Therapy. She has performed with NWT in productions such as *Bring It On!* (Danielle), *BKLYN* (Brooklyn), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal). Paris has also been a two-time Dazzle Nominee for her roles in *Urinetown* (Becky Two Shoes) and *Ragtime* (Sarah). This past summer, Paris had the privilege to work with Cleveland Playhouse in *The Very Lonely Dinosaur*. She would like to thank her cast, crew, production team, and NWT family for their welcoming hearts into this community. She would also like to thank her parents, other family, best friends, and her vocal coach for always seeing growth, talent, and success in her future.

**Kyla Burks** (*Shirelle - Shirley*) (She/Her) is beyond excited to be a part of the show! Kyla has been performing for 10 years. Some previous credits at Near West Theatre include: *The Wiz* (Ensemble), *Into the Woods* (Sneezy the Dwarf), *Aida!* (Aida), *All Shook Up* (Sylvia), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Armelia McQueen), *Head Over Heels* (Dance Ensemble), *The Last Five Years* (Cathy) and previous NWT Benefits! Other favorite credits include: *Aida!* (Aida) at Akron Civic Center, *Evita* (Ensemble), *Disaster* (Levora), and *Ragtime* (Sarah) at Broadview Heights Spotlights Theatre. Kyla would like to thank her friends and family for pushing and supporting her talent and allowing her to shine in such a space like this. Enjoy the show!!!!

**Sara Danielle Chapman** (*Shirelle - Janelle Woods/Micky*) (She/Her) is the gift AND the problem #TPOG #SOY #Braincell5Ever



# GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

**Tara Clinton** (*Ensemble/Betty u/s*) (She/Her) is excited to make her Near West debut and be in her first show in Cleveland. She's a recent transplant from Northern Virginia. Recent credits include: *Much Ado about Nothing* (Ursula), *American Idiot* (Declan), and *Almost, Maine* (Ginette/Waitress). She'd like to thank Amanda, Jon, her friends, and her family for their support over the last few months. She really appreciates her cast, creative team, and the NWT staff for providing an open and creative community for all!

**Elisa Gauntner** (*Dance Captain/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is grateful for this experience & place that continues to fuel her soul. She is currently at Baldwin Wallace University studying Arts Management and Theater/Dance, and has spent this past year as the Engagement Intern here at Near West Theatre! Credits include: *Testing Grounds 2024* (Dancer) at BW and *Legally Blonde* (Asst. Choreographer) at NWT. She is endlessly thankful for the support from the community, family, and friends. She truly loves you all <3

**Grant Guyton** (*Drifter*) (He/Him)

**Donnell James** (*Drifter*) (He/Him) is so excited to be returning to Near West Theatre. His most recent credits are *The Wizard Of Oz* (Ensemble) at NWT. When he is not on stage he is a Clinician at an Orthodontics office. In his free time he enjoys writing and directing short films. He would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support.

**Connor Karboski** (*Ensemble/Nick u/s*) (They/Them) is so excited to be in the beautiful *Beautiful* ensemble! Recently at Near West Theatre they have been seen in *Scrooge!* (Tom Jenkins), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble), *The Music Man* (Officer Locke), and *Cinderella* (Jean-Michel), as well as engaging with the Near West Theatre community as a teaching artist! Out in the wild Connor is a barista, a cat parent, and an aspiring author! Connor would like to thank Trinidad for allowing them to be a part of bringing some much needed joy and inspiration to the world.

**Robert Kowalewski** (*Bobby V/Righteous Brother/Gerry u/s*) (He/Him) is excited to be back at Near West Theatre! Robert has been involved in numerous theatrical performances, in both Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Local highlights include: *All Night Strut*, *Gift of the Magi*, and *It's a Wonderful Life* (Clarence) at Theatre in the Circle; *West Side Story* (Riff) with the Akron Symphony; *Next to Normal* (Henry) at French Creek; *Newsies* at Brecksville Little Theatre (Crutchie); *Sweeney Todd* at Blank Canvas (Anthony); and of course, productions of *Joseph*, *Hunchback*, *Spring Awakening*, *Head Over Heels*, and *Chess* at Near West Theatre. Robert thanks this wonderful cast and crew - in addition to his wonderful grandparents, parents, and family. Much love to Braelin, Patrick and Florence!

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

**Marissa Lahr** (*Cynthia Weil*) (She/Her) is ecstatic to be making her Near West Theatre debut in such a *Beautiful* show! Some of her favorite past credits include: *If/Then* (Elizabeth), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Edwin Drood), *She Loves Me* (Ilona), *Head Over Heels* (Mopsa), *Songs for a New World* (Woman 1), and *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeney). She would like to thank the cast, crew, production staff, and entire NWT family for creating such a warm, welcoming, and supportive environment. Something she's learned since joining this cast is that when you're here, You've Got a Friend.

**Maria V. Janae** (*Shirelle - Lucille/Beverly*) (She/Her) is a proud Cleveland School of the Arts alum known for her vibrant energy and fearless passion for the stage. She first fell in love with performing as a child, entertaining family and friends, and has since appeared in *American Psycho* (Sabrina), *Snowy Day & Other Stories* (Happiness/Sadness), *Everything I Feel*, *Leap of Faith* (Ensemble), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ensemble). Maria thanks her loved ones for their unwavering support and hopes to inspire everyone to embrace their uniqueness and chase their dreams.

**Shannon McPeck** (*Marilyn Wald/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is pumped to be back at Near West Theatre for another show! Shannon has been involved with musical theatre for MUCH longer than she cares to admit!! When she's not rehearsing Shannon is a teacher at Lakewood High School and a mom to her daughters Beni and Frankie. Theatre makes life better. Express yourself, and build your confidence to tell stories. You never know who you'll inspire, or save.

**Emily Morgan** (*Ensemble/Carole King u/s*) (She/Her) is grateful to perform with Near West Theater for the first time. Past credits include: *Children of Eden* (Ensemble) at the Kennedy Center, *Les Miserables* (Assistant Music Director) at the Academy for the Performing Arts, and *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) at Chagrin Falls High School. Offstage, Emily loves practicing yoga, traveling, and cooking. She wants to thank her mom and dad, boyfriend Anthony, and all her students for the support and inspiration.

**Carole Leiblinger-Hedderson** (*Genie King*) (She/Her) is returning to the stage, again, after many years, first appearing in Near West Theatre's *The Sound of Music* in 1994. Soon after, she joined the staff as Business Director for 14 years and Stage Manager for 10 of those years. She was on-stage as part of the ensemble and several walk-ons but her love was being behind the scenes, working with hundreds of amazing teens on crew. She was thrilled to share the stage with her son Perren in *The Wizard of Oz* and several old friends. Now, enjoying the *Beautiful* experience! I feel the earth move under my feet.... Grateful for the support of her family - you are priceless to me.

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

**Kathryn O'Sullivan** (*Betty/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is so excited to be returning to the Near West Theatre stage. She made a home in both Cleveland and NWT in 2021 with *The Little Mermaid* and continued into *Cinderella*, *The Music Man* (Ethel Tofflemire), the '23 & '24 Benefit, *The Wizard of Oz*, and most recently *The Prom*! In her free time she is usually volunteering for numerous other productions and events at NWT or somewhere continuing to dance for fun. Kathryn wants to thank her friends, the Brain Cell, and her family for their ever present support. Enjoy the show! #Braincell5Ever

**Mark Pack** (*Gerry Goffin*) (He/Him) is very excited to make his Near West Theatre debut and return to musicals after an extensive intermission! He is excited to play the role of Gerry Goffin, husband and prolific co-writer to Carole King. Some of his favorite roles include *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Darcy) and *Hairspray* (Link). When he is not onstage, you can find him learning French, traveling to national parks or spending time with his partner Alec and their tremendously fluffy dog, Yuki.

**Zach Palumbo** (*Barry Mann*) (He/Him) is thrilled to be returning to Near West Theatre for the first time since *Spring Awakening* (Moritz Stiefel) in 2018! Other favorite credits include *Broadway Bound* (Eugene) at Beck Center for the Arts, *Twelfth Night* (Feste) and *The Wizard of Oz* (Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz) with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, and *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob SquarePants) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour Krelborn) at Blank Canvas Theatre. Love always to his family, friends, and Nicole. zachpalumbo.com

**Phil Pantalone** (*Ensemble/Lou Adler u/s*) (He/Him)

**Dennis Runkle** (*Don Kirshner*) (He/Him) Dennis is delighted to be back at Near West Theatre, where he last appeared over 20 years ago as Pickerington in *My Fair Lady*. Past shows on other NE Ohio stages include *Our Town* (The Stage Manager), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Atticus), *Sweeney Todd* (Judge Turpin), and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Big Daddy). Dennis sends immense thanks to Trinidad and Julie for including him in this wonderful holiday show with so many phenomenal vocalists, and to Kathleen, for whom he appears in an open-ended run as supporting cast as loving husband and assistant pug wrangler. Enjoy the show!

**Simeon Schmitt** (*Neil Sedaka/Ensemble/Barry Mann u/s*) is thrilled to be making his Near West Theatre debut. Simeon is a junior at Baldwin Wallace University studying Arts Management with an emphasis in Musical Theater. Some of Simeon's previous credits include *Joseph and the...Dreamcoat* (Zebulon/Dance Captain) at Beck Center for the Arts, *Cabaret* (Victor) at Weathervane Playhouse, and *Fyoo Zh En '24: Spatial Proximity* (Dancer) Baldwin Wallace University. He sends his love to his family and friends, and thanks the cast and crew for their hard work. Enjoy this 'Beautiful' show!

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

**Erin Sheplavy** (*Lou Adler/Ensemble*) (They/Them) is a Cleveland based actor, playwright, drama therapist, and psychologist. Recent credits include their first play, *Surviving's Not a Noun*, produced at the Borderlight Fringe Festival, *Altar Boyz* (Abraham/Juan u/s), *BKLYN* (Ensemble), *Head Over Heels* (Ensemble, Mopsa u/s), *Cabaret* (Herman/Max), and *The Last Starfighter* (Darlene/Zur's Assistant). Erin also provides consultation services to various organizations on mental health, emotion regulation, and creating trauma-informed spaces and approaches to teaching, rehearsing, and performing. Many thanks to Alyssa for her endless love and support!

**David Turner** (*Righteous Brother/Nick/Ensemble*) (He/Him) was last seen at Near West in *The Prom* as Trent Oliver. Some favorite theatrical credits include: *Head Over Heels* (Musidorus), *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Chris), *How To Succeed in Business* (Pierpont Finch), *Avenue Q* (Bad Idea Bear), *Chorus Line* (Mike), *Rock of Ages* (Franz Kleinman), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), and *The Producers* (Leo Bloom). Special thanks to my family and friends for their support and especially to my husband for all his love! TPOG!

**Catie Votaw** (*Ensemble/Cynthia u/s*) (She/Her) is a sophomore at Baldwin Wallace University. She is a Music Therapy Major with a Musical Theatre Emphasis. She recently made her regional/professional debut in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the Beck Center! She grew up a dancer but has developed into a musical theatre performer. Some credits include: *Legally Blonde* (Enid Hoopes), *Mamma Mia* (Lisa), *The Little Mermaid* (Aquata). When she's not on the stage she can be found reading, drinking lots of coffee, thrifting and playing the guitar. She would love to thank her family and friends for their encouragement and support.

**Sydney Noelle Warren** (*Ensemble/Shirelles u/s*) (She/Her) is ridiculously excited to be back at her home of Near West Theatre. She is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University with a BA in Film Studies and a minor in Theater. Some of Sydney's previous credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Roger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Cinderella), *Hair* (Shelia Franklin), and *Head Over Heels* (Gynecia). She is super excited to work with this incredibly talented cast! This cast is in every sense of the word "BEAUTIFUL!" Enjoy! #Shoobeedoowap #BrainCellSEver

**Ronald Watkins** (*Ensemble/Drifter u/s*) (He/Him) is a senior at Garrett Morgan School of Leadership and Innovation, excited to be part of Near West Theatre's latest production. With a passion for storytelling, Ronald enjoys writing horror and fantasy stories. Offstage, he's a curious conversationalist, relishing discussions and diverse perspectives. At home, Ronald lives with his mom, sister, and loyal dog, Skruphie Rose. Described by friends and family as hard-working, creative, and endearingly quirky, Ronald brings enthusiasm and unique energy to every performance.

# GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

**Anthony Savage Williams** (*Drifter*) (He/Him) returns to the Near West Theatre stage after being away since 2015. Previous credits include: *Memphis* (Delray Farrell), *Children of Eden* (Noah), and several summer teen and intergenerational productions in our little home on West 38th and Bridge. He would like to thank his grandmother and his small but mighty circle of friends for their love and unwavering support. "Without courage we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest." - Maya Angelou #SOY #TPOG

**Kellen Willams** (*Drifter*) (He/Him) is ecstatic to be back on the Near West Theatre stage. He started out on the stage of the Chagrin Falls Academy for the Performing Arts. There, he participated in the following shows: *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania/Hippolyta), *Rent* (Angel), *The Wild Party* (Black), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch). He uses different forms of art as an outlet to express himself like doing drag, sewing costumes, dancing, producing and songwriting. Kellen would like to thank his mother for always supporting him and his dreams, as well as Near West Theatre for welcoming him and allowing him to share the stage alongside many talented artists!



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AGES 8 - 13

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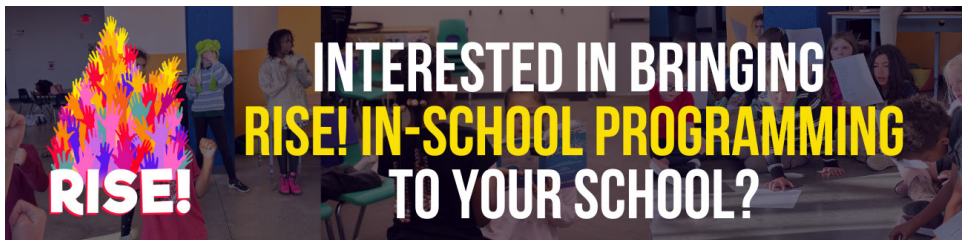
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# GET TO KNOW THE ARTISTIC TEAM

**Julie Billinghurst** (*Guest Stage Manager*) (She/Her) is so happy to be a part of this *Beautiful* production! She has been a stage manager with NWT since *Cinderella* in 2022. She has previously worked at other theatres in NE Ohio, including French Creek Theatre, LCCC, LCMT and TrueNorth. She is thrilled to have worked on this production with such a strong femme presence. This one is truly *Beautiful*! Shout out to the amazing cast and crew for truly living the motto, Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

**Kenedy M. Brooks** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) (She/They) is a stage manager who graduated from Kent State University. Some of their previous work as a stage manager include: *Zoom Play Without a Title*, *Home of the Brave*, *KSU Opera Scenes 2022*, *Urinetown*, and *KSU Opera Scenes 2023*. She also worked on *Freaky Friday*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* in the scenic department. Outside of college work Kenedy also worked as an assistant stage manager at on *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Marvelous Wonderetts*, and *The Prom* at Porthouse Theatre in 2023, and *Make Believe* at Dobama Theatre.

**Joshua Caraballo** (*Sound Designer*) (He/Him) is excited to be back with NWT for this production. The Holiday Season always kicks off with a fun show at Near West Theatre. Josh has supported live events and designed many shows over the past 18 years in the Cleveland area. He has supported NWT during that time offering his skills in both design and live sound operation for plays, benefits, and other live performances. His most recent design credits include *BKLYN the Musical*, *The Prom*, and the prerecorded production of *Les Miserables*. Josh is a full-time Lead Theatre Technician at Tri-C. Other design credits include work with the Beck Center, Baldwin Wallace, and Tri-C's Jazzfest Productions. He enjoys spending time with his family, volunteering as a youth coach for basketball and baseball and listening to all varieties of music.

**Laura Carlson-Tarantowski** (*Scenic Designer*) (She/Her) is the resident Scenic Designer and Lecturer at Oberlin College. Recent work at Oberlin includes *L'Orfeo*, *Ancestra*, *Pipeline*, *Stonewallin'*, *Or*, and *The Moors*. Recent designs in the Cleveland area include *Breakfast at the Bookstore* for Karamu House, *Little Women* and *Make Believe* for Dobama Theatre, *Erma Bombeck: at Wits End* for The Cleveland Playhouse, and *Rent* at Cain Park. She holds an MFA in Scene Design from the University of Wisconsin- Madison.

# ARTISTIC TEAM CONT'D

**Vanessa Cook** (*Costume Designer*) (She/Her) BW Conservatory (BM) and Regent University (MA) alum, Mrs. Cook is the owner of Cook Theatre Designs, LLC, a freelance design firm that serves Ohio theatre programs. She served as TD, designer and adjunct professor at Heidelberg University and is former costume/set designer for Heidelberg's Community Music School. In addition to Near West, Mrs. Cook currently works with several Cleveland based theater companies. Most recently; Spark Theatre 4 Youth, The Brecksville Theatre, Dobama, Cleveland Opera Theatre, and Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute. She also assists with local and regional HS productions teaching the next generation about technical theatre. She has decades of experience and specializes in costume and prop creation. Mrs. Cook is the co-founder of the Norwalk Arts Center (NAC) and serves on the board of directors as Secretary, as well as NAC's prop/set and costume mistress.

**Emily Ferrer** (*Sound Technician*) (She/Her) is so excited to be back for her 7th show at Near West Theatre. Recent NWT Productions include *The Music Man*, *All Shook Up*, *Head Over Heels*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other recent productions include: *The Addams Family*, *Richard III*, *Blithe Spirit*, *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*, *Jungle Book Kids*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, and *Frozen Jr. Kids*. When Emily isn't at the theatre, she can be found watching sports and spending time with family.

**Perren Hedderson** (*Technical Director*) (He/Him) has been with Near West Theatre for many years, starting as a young teen acting and helping construct the sets. He is now the Technical Director and a freelance Projection Designer. He has also worked in film here in Cleveland and for a few years in New Mexico. Credits include *We Will Rock You* (projections) at Blank Canvas Theatre, *Chess* (projection design) at Near West Theatre, and a side music project called Triage. He's a Dad now too with two kids. Love to Sarah, Kellen, Asa, and Sab!

**Emily Hennen** (*Assistant Technical Director*) (She/Her) graduated from Ohio University with a BFA in Production Design and Technology in 2016 and has been with Near West full time since 2018. Occasionally, she also works as a sound and video technician for Near West events and performances, and she is thrilled to continue working with such a talented and creative team.

**Jenny Hitmar-Shankland** (*Scenic Charge*) (She/Her) has been painting for Near West Theatre since 2002. She paints as a scenic artist throughout Northeast Ohio but considers Near West one of her families. She has taught scenic painting at Baldwin Wallace University and regularly paints their mainstage shows. She has painted for the Cleveland Play House for seven years, and now operates under her business name Fresco Scenic Studio. She loves how close the Ohio theater community is and also has painted for Cleveland Opera Theater, Parade the Circle, Blank Canvas, Ballet Theater of Ohio, Carousel Dinner Theater, Sign Stage, and Chagrin Arts Academy. She is proud to have painted the Lobby mural for Near West Theatre, and grateful for the continual trust from an organization that allows her to throw large amounts of liquid around its beautiful stage. Love to her husband and two children who are growing up here.



# ARTISTIC TEAM CONT'D

**Mia Jones** (*Props Designer*) (She/Her) is delighted to be back with Near West Theatre as props designer for *Beautiful*. As she continuously grows her credits in theater and film, her diverse talents encompass performance, stage management, costume design, props design, and directing, honed in prestigious venues such as Karamu House, Dobama Theatre, Cain Park, Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT), Cleveland Play House (State Theatre), and Seat of the Pants Theatre. Notably she has been honored by the city of Cleveland with an Arts and Entertainment Award. Mia is a multifaceted artist extending her creative reach with mixed media paintings.

**Cassandra Miller** (*Choreographer*) (She/Her) is honored to be on the locomotion train for *Beautiful*. She recently graduated from Cleveland State University, specializing in theatre and dance. She has choreographed on Playhouse Square stages and as a Choreographer for *Jungle Book Kids* and *Frozen Jr.* with Near West Theatre. Her recent performance includes *Big Fish* (Josephine) at Cain Park, *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Vera) CSU at Playhouse Square, *Ancestra* (Janis) CSU at Playhouse Square, and CSU's Dance Company member in the Spring Dance Concert. Cassandra thanks God, her husband, her family, and the community for their continuous support. Thank you. Matt 5:16

**Trinidad Snider** (*Artistic Director*) (She/Her) started her Near West Theatre (NWT) journey at the age of 15 back in 1989. Since then, she has had the honor and privilege to be both onstage and behind the scenes in various theaters in the Cleveland area and beyond for the past 36 years. She is slated to direct the upcoming spring production, *Beautiful!* She is a proud member of the board at Dobama Theatre. She would like to thank the entire production team of *Little Shop of Horrors* for their passion around this project and for this bringing this monster of a show together! She is honored to share this sacred space with the NWT staff and board, and it is excited to celebrate 10 years in the blue building, as well as preparing for our 50th anniversary! She sends her love to her family and friends, especially Michael, Kirstin, Colin, Dylan, Michaela, Clark, Daisy and Ollie. She wants to remind us that now, more than ever, we cannot sit quietly and wait to see how things turn out. This is the time to gather in community and get prepared. We have the biggest fight ahead of us yet. George and Kevin will be there with us, always. **TPOG**, but also "a democracy cannot thrive where power remains unchecked, and justice is reserved for a select few. Ignoring these cries and failing to respond to this movement is simply not an option - for peace cannot exist where justice is not served." - John Lewis

# ARTISTIC TEAM CONT'D

**Michael Stein** (*Production Manager*) (He/Him) is in his eighth year at Near West Theatre (NWT) as PM/RM. His 40+ year career in theatre has taken him across the U.S. from Maine to California but mostly in Ohio as the Stage Manager/Production Manager/Lighting Designer at the Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron, OH. Prior to returning to Near West Theatre in 2016, he was the Production Manager at the Palace Theater in Wisconsin Dells, WI. As always, he thanks and sends love to his wife Carlie.

**Jesse Uguccini** (*Lighting Designer*) (She/Her) is excited to be designing her third show at Near West Theatre. She is a preschool teacher at Mandel JDS in Beachwood and holds a BA in Theatre from Baldwin Wallace University. Her past lighting design credits include *BKLYN* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* at Near West Theatre, as well as lighting for various shows with Crooked River Circus. Outside of theatre and teaching, Jesse enjoys traveling, learning guitar, and playing pickle ball. She is also involved with Crooked River Circus, where she practices partner acro, juggling, improv, and performing. Jesse would like to thank her family, Justin, and Jess for being there for her throughout this production.

**Rachel Woods** (*Music Director*) (She/Her) is glad to be back at Near West after last working on *Les Misérables* in 2021. She has worked on over 50 musical theater productions in Greater Cleveland since 2012, seventeen of which have been with Near West. Her other credits include productions at the Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Cain Park, Lakeland Civic Theater, and Blank Canvas Theatre. Rachel is also a staff accompanist in the Music Theatre program at Baldwin Wallace University. She is a proud member of Maestra Music, an organization supporting women and nonbinary people who make music in the musical theater industry. Her original music can be found at [soundcloud.com/riowoods](https://soundcloud.com/riowoods)



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# BEAUTIFUL CREDITS

**Gerry Goffin** Born in Brooklyn in 1939, Gerry Goffin met Carole King at Queens College, and their musical collaboration began almost immediately. They married in 1959, and that same year wrote their first hit song "Will You Love Me Tomorrow?" (The Shirelles). The duo penned more than 50 Top-40 hits including "The Locomotion," "Natural Woman" and "Up on the Roof." In 1987, Goffin and King were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. Goffin has left an indelible mark on American music.

**Carole King** Pop music would be very different without the contributions of Carole King, who at age 17 wrote her first #1 hit with Gerry Goffin, "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," for the Shirelles. The dozens of chart hits Goffin and King wrote during this period became legendary, but it was 1971's *Tapestry* that took King to the pinnacle, speaking personally to her contemporaries and providing a spiritual musical backdrop to the decade. More than 400 of her compositions have been recorded by over 1,000 artists, resulting in 100 hit singles and six Grammys.

**Barry Mann** has written the melodies of some of the most influential pop songs in musical history. In addition to "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," the most-played song of the last century, and the songs heard in *Beautiful*, he composed later standards like "Somewhere Out There" (winner of two Grammys), "Here You Come Again," "Sometimes When We Touch," "Just Once" and "Don't Know Much." Together he and Cynthia Weil have amassed an incredible 112 pop, country, and R&B awards from Broadcast Music Inc. for significant radio air play. He has been inducted into both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**Cynthia Weil** was the acclaimed lyricist of classic songs such as "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," the most-played song of the 20th century. In addition to the songs heard in *Beautiful*, she set the words to later standards including "Somewhere Out There," "Here You Come Again," "He's So Shy," "Just Once" and "Don't Know Much," to name just a few. Weil was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, honored with multiple Grammy nominations and two Grammy awards for "Somewhere Out There" as the Motion Pictures Song of the Year and Song of the Year. Weil passed away on June 1, 2023.

# BEAUTIFUL CREDITS CONT'D

**Douglas McGrath** was a filmmaker and playwright. Most recently, he directed the HBO documentary "Becoming Mike Nichols." He collaborated with Woody Allen on the screenplay for *Bullets Over Broadway*, for which they were nominated for an Academy Award. He wrote and directed the Oscar-winning *Emma* from the Jane Austen novel; *Company Man*; Charles Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*, which won the Best Ensemble Cast from the National Board of Review; *Infamous*; and the HBO documentary, "His Way," nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Nonfiction Special. His play *Checkers* opened the 30th anniversary season of New York's acclaimed Vineyard Theatre. His book for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* was nominated for Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards. He began his career as a writer for "Saturday Night Live" in what was incontestably the worst year in the show's history. He has written essays on the arts and politics for the *New Republic*, the *New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times* and *Vanity Fair*. Douglas McGrath passed away on November 4, 2022.

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"Be Bop a Lula" by Tex Davis and Gene Vincent. Sony/ATV Songs LLC (BMI) and Three Wise Boys Music LLC (BMI).

"Beautiful" by Carole King. Colgems-EMI Music Inc. (ASCAP).

"Chains" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King, Screen Gems-EMI Music (BMI).

"Happy Days Are Here Again" by Milton Ager and Jack Yellen. EMI Robbins Catalog Inc. (ASCAP). Special Lyrics by Douglas McGrath and Cynthia Weil.

"He's Sure the Boy I Love" by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"I Go Ape" by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI) and Universal/BMG (BMI).

"It Might As Well Rain Until September" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

# BEAUTIFUL CREDITS CONT'D

"It's Too Late" by Carole King and Toni Stern. Colgems-EMI Music Inc. (ASCAP).

"Little Darlin'" by Maurice Williams. Cherio Corporation (BMI) 100%.

"The Locomotion" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Love Potion #9" by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Sony/ATV Tunes LLC (ASCAP)

"Oh Carol" by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI) and Universal/BMG (BMI).

"On Broadway" by Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"One Fine Day" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Pleasant Valley Sunday" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Poison Ivy" by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Sony/ATV Tunes LLC (ASCAP).

"So Far Away" by Carole King. Colgems-EMI Music Inc. (ASCAP).

"Splish Splash" by Bobby Darin and Jean Murray. EMI Unart Catalog Inc. (BMI), Trio Music Co. Inc. (BMI) and Alley Music Corp. (BMI).

"Stupid Cupid" by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI) and EMI Longitude Music (BMI).

"Take Good Care of My Baby" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"There Goes My Baby" by Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller, Ben King, George Treadwell and Lover Patterson. Sony/ATV Songs LLC (BMI).

"Up on the Roof" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Walking in The Rain" by Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil and Phil Spector. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI). EMI Blackwood Music Inc. obo Mother Bertha Music (BMI).

"We Gotta Get Out of This Place" by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Who Put the Bomp" by Barry Mann and Gerry Goffin. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Will You Love Me Tomorrow" by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Screen Gems EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"Yakety Yak" by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Sony/ATV Tunes LLC (ASCAP).

"(You Make Me Feel Like a) Natural Woman" by Gerry Goffin, Carole King and Gerald Wexler. Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc. (BMI).

"You've Got A Friend" by Carole King. Colgems-EMI Music Inc (ASCAP).

"You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" by Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil and Phil Spector. Screen Gem-EMI Music Inc, (BMI), EMI Blackwood Music Inc. obo Mother Bertha Music (BMI).



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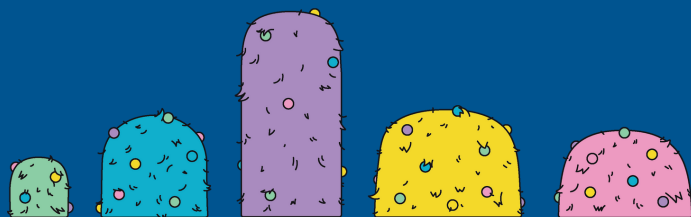
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# Near West Theatre Staff

Michael Obertacz .....	Executive Director
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Amani Green .....	Program Manager
Hannah Armenta .....	Engagement Manager
Perren Hedderson .....	Technical Director
Emily Hehnen .....	Assistant Technical Director
Michael Stein.....	Production Manager/Rentals Manager
Emily Schon .....	Advancement Associate
Kamilla Jensen .....	Guest Services Manager
Elisa Gauntner .....	Engagement Intern

# Support Staff

Michelle Gregorczyk .....	Accountant
Alvis Ashley.....	Maintenance Technician



Near West Theatre creates life-changing theatre arts  
experiences that empower our community.

Ordinary people.  
Extraordinary theatre.



**NEAR WEST THEATRE IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING ORGANIZATION**

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