

LIVE ARTS THEATER

Season 32 | *Transformations* | 2022/23

VIOLET

MUSIC BY **JEANINE TESORI**

LYRICS & BOOK BY **BRIAN CRAWLEY**

BASED ON *THE UGLIEST PILGRIM* BY DORIS BETTS



LIVE ARTS

WELCOME TO LIVE ARTS!

Check Us Out



/LiveArts



@livearts



/LiveArtsTheater

Live Arts is honored to welcome you to our theater, which sits on the unceded homeland of the Monacan and Manahoac Nations. We recognize them as the original stewards of this land and offer our respect to their elders—past, present, and emerging.

WHILE YOU'RE HERE...

Concessions are located on the 3rd floor. Enjoy snacks and drinks during an extended 20-minute intermission.

Restrooms are on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th floors. Single stall, gender-neutral restrooms and changing table are on the 4th floor.

Please **silence your cell phone** and refrain from texting during the show. **No photography or video recording**, either!

Help protect each other (and our cast!) while gathering a large group in a small, enclosed space. **Keep your mask on** over your nose and mouth during the show, except when eating or drinking.

You can find our updated COVID guidelines at livearts.org/covid.

NEW TO OUR THEATER?

Get involved! There are hundreds of ways to make theater with us.

Take a few minutes to fill out our **Volunteer Engagement Form**. We will reach out to you with more information about current volunteer opportunities.

Learn more at livearts.org. We can't wait to get to know you!



*New Volunteers
Scan Here!*



A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Come along for the journey.

Isn't it tantalizing to see a map in the frontispiece of a book? I love journey stories in books and on stage where we travel alongside a cast of characters. In VIOLET, we enjoy both the real and metaphorical: a Greyhound bus trip, and a quest for self-discovery. As only a piece of theater can do, a bus emerges from chairs, a diner from a table and counter, a rooming house from a bed and doorway. With our imaginations sparked, we fill in all the pieces and await the road ahead with eagerness, excitement, and a bit of trepidation.

There's a delicacy about Violet's story, and about these people she encounters, and a kind of gentleness one doesn't expect from a musical with anthems like "On My Way." It's a reminder that great musicals can be about inner soul-searching, as much as mega-production numbers. We are encouraged to embrace the recognizable humanity of the story with songs that pierce the heart.

My thanks go out to this fantastic, hard-working, versatile, talented team of artists. At my last company, we had a production of VIOLET in the works, sadly cut short by the pandemic. This Live Arts show feels like a special gift, a shining example of the perseverance and resilience of theater and the people who make it.

Susan E. Evans
Artistic Director | Live Arts

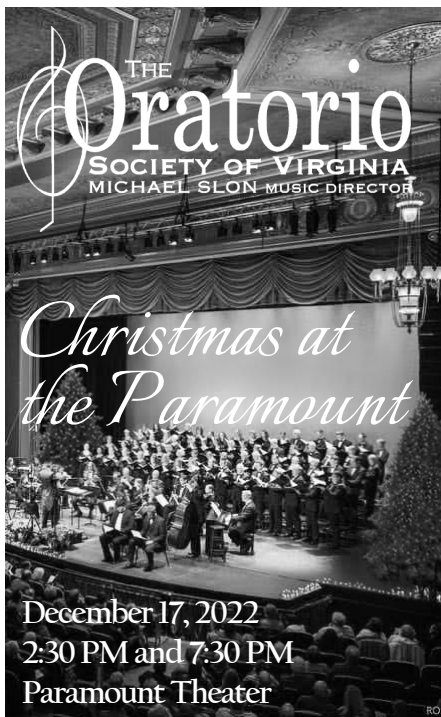
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TRANSFORMATIONS

The 2022/23 Live Arts Season

Latitude 38 presents

VIOLET

Music by **Jeanine Tesori**

Lyrics and Book by **Brian Crawley**

Based on "The Ugliest Pilgrim" by **Doris Betts**

LIVE ARTS

November 18-December 11, 2022

Sponsored by

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Directed & Choreographed by

Perry Medlin

Pay-What-You-Can Tickets Sponsored by **Ting**

Act I will be 1 hour. Act II will be 1 hour.

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

PLEASE NOTE: This show contains adult themes and a racist slur.

VIOLET is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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Live Arts is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

September, 1964

Spruce Pine, NC, in the Blue Ridge Mountains,
a Greyhound bus, **Johnson City**, TN, **Kingsport**, TN,
Knoxville, TN, **Nashville**, TN, **Memphis**, TN, and **Tulsa**, OK

ACT I MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Water in the Well/Suprised</i>	Young Vi, Violet
<i>On My Way</i>	Company
<i>M&M's</i>	Company
<i>Luck of the Draw</i>	Father, Young Vi, Violet, Monty, Flick
<i>Question 'n' Answer</i>	Monty, Violet
<i>All to Pieces</i>	Violet, Monty, Flick
<i>A Healing Touch</i>	Preacher, Violet, Ensemble
<i>Let it Sing</i>	Flick
<i>Anyone Would Do</i>	Hotel Hooker
<i>Who'll Be the One (If Not Me)</i>	Radio Trio
<i>Last Time I Came to Memphis</i>	Monty
<i>Lonely Stranger</i>	Music Hall Singer
<i>Lay Down Your Head</i>	Violet
<i>Anyone Would Do (Reprise)</i>	Music Hall Singer, Almeta, Hotel Hooker

ACT II MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Hard to Say Goodbye</i>	Flick, Violet
<i>Promise Me, Violet</i>	Violet, Flick, Monty
<i>Raise Me Up</i>	Preacher, Lula Buffington, Ensemble
<i>Down the Mountain</i>	Young Vi, Father
<i>Raise Me Up (Reprise)</i>	Violet, Preacher
<i>Look at Me</i>	Violet, Young Vi
<i>That's What I Could Do</i>	Father
<i>Surprised (Reprise)</i>	Violet, Company
<i>Promise Me, Violet (Reprise)</i>	Flick, Violet
<i>Bring Me to Light</i>	Company

CAST

Mary Catherine Hughes.....	<i>Violet</i>
Thad Lane.....	<i>Flick</i>
Danny Hugus.....	<i>Monty</i>
Bernadette Moran	<i>Young Vi</i>
Bruce Young.....	<i>Father</i>
Jeannie Jones	<i>Old Lady/Hotel Hooker/Ensemble</i>
Chris Estey	<i>Preacher/Bus Driver/Radio Singer/Ensemble</i>
Hillel Finder.....	<i>Virgil/Radio Singer/Billy Dean/Ensemble</i>
Davina Jackson	<i>Music Hall Singer/Lula Buffington/Ensemble</i>
Bonita Patton.....	<i>Almeta/Ensemble</i>
James Scales	<i>Radio Soloist/Leroy Evans/Ensemble</i>

BAND

Graeme Rosner	Band Leader/Keyboard
Kelly Chambers	Violin
Carl Hamilton.....	Percussion
Ellis Nolan.....	Bass
Stella Sokolowski	Guitar

PRODUCTION TEAM

Perry Medlin	Director/Choreographer
Mandy Shuker	Production Stage Manager
Carter Walker.....	Assistant Stage Manager
Katherine Nies	Musical Direction Team
Graeme Rosner	Musical Direction Team
Laura Collier	Musical Direction Team
Dan Feigert.....	Scenic Designer
Laurence Hugo	Lighting Designer
Joshua Reid.....	LED Engineer
Etta Feigert	Lighting Programmer
Bruce Young.....	Costume Designer
Mimi Halpern	Assistant Costume Designer
Maggie Rogers	Props Designer
Daniel Angell.....	Sound Engineer
Megan Moberg	Sound A2/Soundboard Operator
Daphne Latham	Wigs and Makeup Designer
Phoenix Rose	Dresser/Backstage Crew
Kim Shively, Laura Rikard.....	Intimacy Consultants
Will Kerner	Photographer

JOIN US FOR A POST-SHOW AUDIENCE TALKBACK

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Take a peek behind the curtain at a talkback with Director Perry Medlin and members of the cast of VIOLET, moderated by Education Director Ti Ames.

All are welcome!

You do not need to see the show on December 8 to attend. If you would like to join us after the show, please plan to arrive at 9:30pm.

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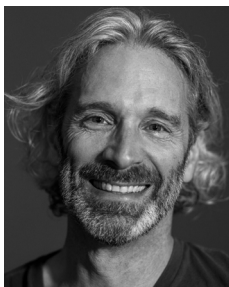


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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Chris Estey



Hillel Finder



Mary Catherine Hughes



Danny Hugus



Davina Jackson



Jeannie Jones



Thaddeus Lane



Bernadette Moran



Bonita Patton



James Scales



Bruce Young

READ THE STUDY GUIDE



Explore VIOLET! Read a full synopsis and learn more about the script and show creators in our VIOLET study guide. Includes behind-the-scenes photos and more.

Scan here or go to livearts.org to read now.



Photo by Will Kerner

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the more they stay the same



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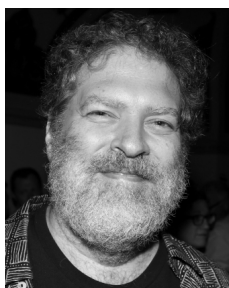
COMPOSER, LYRICIST, & DIRECTOR BIOS



JEANINE TESORI | Composer

Jeanine Tesori has written music for Broadway, opera, film, and television. She is one of the first female composers commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera, and ASCAP cites her as the first female composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway. Her musicals include *Fun Home* (Tony Award for best original score, Pulitzer finalist); *Soft Power* (Pulitzer finalist); *Caroline, or Change* (Olivier

Award for Best New Musical; lyrics, Tony Kushner); *Violet* (four Tony nominations including Best Musical Revival); *Shrek* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire); *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; and *Twelfth Night*. Most recently, she composed the music for *Kimberly Akimbo*, with book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, which opened on Broadway October 12, 2022.



BRIAN CRAWLEY | Lyricist/Book Writer

Brian Crawley is an award-winning American playwright and screenwriter. His work includes the book and lyrics for *A Little Princess* (composer Andrew Lippa); *Violet* (composer Jeanine Tesori); *Evangeline* (Ted Dykstra); and *Down There* (composer Lewis Flinn). His awards include the Kleban Award, Richard Rodgers Musical Production Award, AT&T OnStage Award, Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding

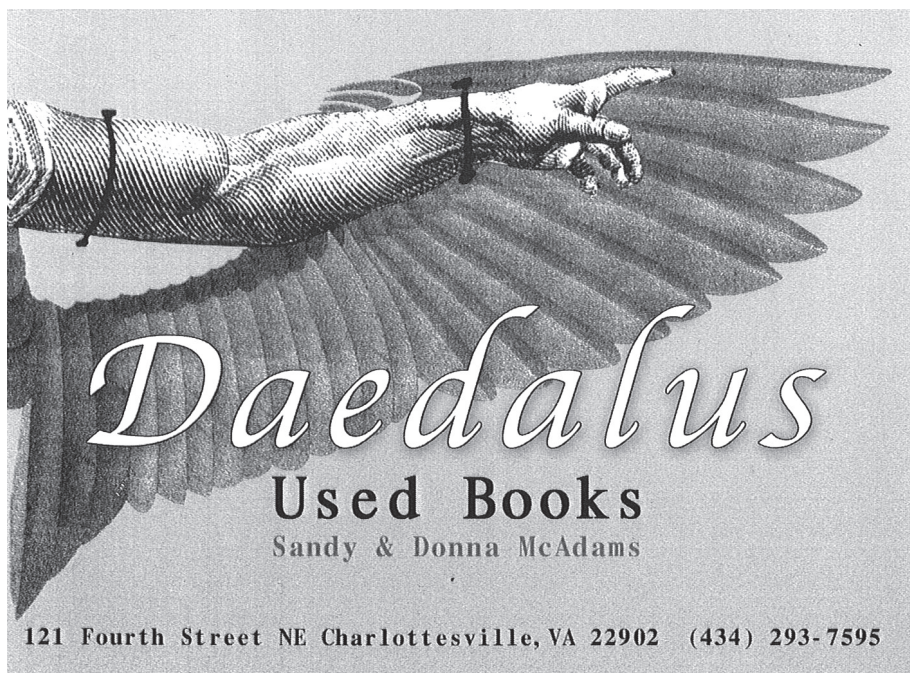
Musical, and New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical.



PERRY MEDLIN | Director/Choreographer

Perry's choreography and directing work with Live Arts includes *THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE*, *FOLLIES*, *PIPPIN*, *13*, and *GYPSY*, as well as many summers working with the teen theater program. Other local credits include *Young Frankenstein* and *The Laramie Project* with Four County Players. Perry (he/they) holds a BFA in musical theater from Elon University and teaches theater and public speaking at

Tandem Friends School, where they have directed productions of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Little Women*, *26 Pebbles*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*, among others.



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WHO MAKES THIS WORK

SETS & LIGHTS

Rachelle Blidner	Nora Erkelens	Bhodi Kretsinger
Tom Bloom	Sophy Erkelens	Savannah Meriwether
Austin Bouchard	Etta Feigert	Lori Pinkey
Elizabeth Carpenter	Dan Feigert	Josh Reid
Joey Conover	Heather Hutton	Emily Torman
Matt Dhillan	Demitri Kalogeropoulos	Tony Walker
	Stein Kretsinger	

FRONT OF HOUSE

Hope Bagley	Sue Horne	Sandra Pai
Judy Bazin	Jim Horstkotte	John Rabasa
Jen Bottas	Ginny Hoverman	Tom Raney
Aly Brookland	Michele Howe	Julia Robertson
Erin Bulinski	Sydna Julian	Dawn Schimke
Max Bulinski	Bill Julina	Cheryl Schwandt
Mecca Burns	Demitri Kalogeropoulos	Tracy Schwandt-Hardley
Deborah Caudle	Johnathan Karnes	Ethan Serr
Elaine Chapman	Hope King	Laura Shea
Roberta Cook	Wendy King	Stephen Smith
Brian Dowd	Latifa Kropf	Cherry Stewart
Nick Evans	Peter Kropf	Brad Stoller
Joan Forrest	Jane McDonald	Michael Swanberg
Margaret Gardiner	Mark McLane	Roger Tolle
Eric Gilchrist	Margaret Migas	Jamie Virostko
Amy Goffman	Patrick Migas	Tony Walker
Dave Goldstein	David Minton	Zelda Walker
Edwina Herring	Kathi Minton	Tim White
	Susan Munson	

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Tia Daniels

Housekeeper

Jeremy Duncan Pape

Technical Director

Susan E. Evans

Artistic Director

Nick Hagy

Production Manager

Ronda Hewitt

Development Manager

Anne Hunter

Executive Director

Chris Kelly

Administrative Assistant

Kathleel Mueller

Volunteer Coordinator

Ray Nedzel

Fringe Director

Adrienne Oliver

New Works Director

Katie Rogers

Marketing Manager

Darryl Smith

Audience Experience Manager

Annie Temmink

Associate Technical Director

Linda Zuby

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MEET THE CAST

CHRIS ESTEY

Preacher/Bus Driver/Radio Singer/Ensemble

Chris (he/him) was last seen in EVERY BRILLIANT THING at Live Arts in 2021. Past Live Arts shows include: LES MIS (2014), RAGTIME (2018), and FLOYD COLLINS (2002). Other local credits: *Matilda*, *The Secret Garden* (The Wayne); *Big Fish* (ShenanArts); *Chicago* (Four County Players). Huge thanks to Perry. Grateful to be part of this awesome cast.

HILLEL FINDER

Virgil/Radio Singer/Billy Dean/Ensemble

Hillel (he/him) is a Charlottesville native making his Live Arts debut. He graduated with a BS in physics from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania where he most recently played Mr Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2022). His high school performances at ASC's Blackfriars Playhouse include Don Armado in *Love's Labor's Lost* (2017) and Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night* (2018).

MARY CATHERINE HUGHES

Violet

Mary Catherine (she/her) is a Memphis-bred, Charlottesville-based graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Prior stage credits include *Wild Party* (New York University, Sally), *The Secret Garden* (New York University, Lily), and *The Sound of Music* (Hollywood Bowl, Louisa). She is thrilled to be back on stage at Live Arts after participating in last season's LOCALLY SOURCED.

DANNY HUGUS

Monty

Danny (he/him) holds a BFA in theater performance from Virginia Commonwealth University. His stage credits include *Metamorphoses*, *Mad Forest*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Corpus Christi*. TV and commercial work includes AMC's *Turn: Washington's Spies*, FOX's *Legends & Lies: the Patriots*, and several Virginia Lottery and Chik-Fil-A commercials. He is honored to be part of VIOLET and to work with such a talented cast.

DAVINA JACKSON

Music Hall Singer/Lula Buffington/Ensemble

Davina started acting at age six in the BBC mini-series *Nancy Astor*. Film and theater credits include *From Mali to the Mississippi* (PBS, 2003), *First Lady Suite* (PVCC, 2005), and *A SOLITARY FANTASY* at Live Arts (The Foundry, 2015). Davina is a professional singer who has sung back up for the Wailers (2000-2005) and sings lead with her band Wild Common (2017-present). She also works as a public health investigator for the Blue Ridge Health District.

JEANNIE JONES

Old Lady/Hotel Hooker/Ensemble

Jeannie has tremendously enjoyed being immersed in this production with a most talented cast and crew! Stage credits: THE BOOK OF WILL, HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, NINE, AH WILDERNESS, DIVINERS, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (Live Arts); *Violet*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Damn Yankees*, *Ragtime* (Virginia Theatre Festival); *Chicago*, *My Fair Lady*, *Annie* (Broadway); *One Day at a Time*, *One Life to Live*, *Voices* (Amy Irving), *Scouts Honor* (Gary Coleman), *SNL* (CBS, ABC, NBC). Cargenie Mellon University; BFA in theater/dance, Southern Methodist University.

THAD LANE

Flick

Thad (he/him) is excited to be back at Live Arts for this wonderful production of VIOLET. Recent stage credits include Crybaby in CRYBABY (Live Arts, 2018), Barnaby in *Hello Dolly!* (Four County Players, 2019), Rodger Davis in *RENT* (Live Arts, 2018) and many more. He is ready to “let it sing!”



Photo by Will Kerner

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MEET THE CAST (CONTINUED)

BERNADETTE MORAN

Young Vi

Bernadette (she/her) met her voice teacher at Live Arts musical theater camp when she was eight. She's done shows with Four County Players (Ollie Herdman, *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; Susan, *White Christmas*) and the Wayne Theater (ensemble, *Matilda*). She is a seventh grader at Buford Middle School who loves art and volleyball!

BONITA PATTON

Almeta/Ensemble

Bonita (she/her) is the VP of youth development for Piedmont Family YMCA and on the Board at Live Arts. She co-wrote and co-directed the plays *The Glory Train* and *Hell is Real* in 2018. She was in *John The Revelator* (2022) and *Expect No Mercy*, a short film. She enjoys theater.

JAMES SCALES

Radio Soloist/Leroy Evans/Ensemble

James (he/him) is pleased to return to Live Arts for the first time since FOLLIES (2019). James has appeared in 40+ shows around Charlottesville over the past 25 years. Recent favorites include: *The O'Malley Gambit* (Charlottesville Playwrights Collective, 2021); *Middletown* (Virginia Theatre Festival, 2017); and *Our Town* (UVA Drama, 2015).

BRUCE YOUNG

Father/Costume Designer

Born and raised in North Carolina, Bruce (he/they) is so thrilled to be doing double duty on VIOLET. Bruce holds a BFA in costume design & production from East Carolina University and is currently the affiliate relations specialist at the North American Association for Environmental Education. Recent performance credits include Ralph Sheldrake in *White Christmas* (4CP, 2019), Rudolph in *Hello, Dolly!* (4CP, 2018) and Benny Southstreet in GUYS & DOLLS (Live Arts, 2016). Recent costume design credits include THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE (Live Arts, 2021), RENT (Live Arts, 2019), *Young Frankenstein* (4CP, 2018), and PIPPIN (Live Arts, 2017).

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

DANIEL ANGELL | **Sound Engineer**

Daniel has been involved in theater around Charlottesville since high school. While most of his experiences are on stage, most recently he was the sound engineer for INTO THE WOODS at Live Arts. He is happy to be back on the production team for VIOLET and looks forward to giving this incredible cast the sound they so richly deserve.

LAURA COLLIER | **Musical Direction Team**

Laura is a composer, pianist, and music teacher who provided accompaniment during rehearsals. She graduated from George Mason University in 2015 with her master's degree in music composition. Laura enjoys composing classical music with a focus on solo piano pieces and chamber music. For work she teaches private music lessons and plays piano at Chestnut Grove Baptist Church.

DAN FEIGERT | **Scenic Designer**

Dan is happy to be collaborating on this wonderful show with a great team. His recent scenic design credits at Live Arts include THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE (2022) and FOLLIES (2019).

MIMI HALPERN | **Assistant Costume Designer**

Mimi so enjoys any opportunity to interact with everyone at Live Arts. Especially getting to work with Bruce, costumer extraordinaire!

LAURENCE HUGO | **Lighting Designer**

Laurence has designed several shows at Live Arts over the last 20 years while working as the assistant tech director/production stage manager at the Dickinson Theater at PVCC. He has toured with dance companies including Martha Graham, Eric Hawkins, Rod Rodgers, and Dance Theater of Harlem, toured as a lighting tech for Neil Diamond, The Rolling Stones, and Michael Moschen, and worked the light board at MTV/VHI studios in NYC before moving to Nelson County. He has two great kids who both work in film and TV in NYC.

DAPHNE LATHAM | **Wigs & Makeup Designer**

Daphne (she/her) has been a professional hairstylist and makeup artist for over 24 years. She has been volunteering with Live Arts for 22. Daphne has worked on over 80 productions at Live Arts, and is happy to be a part of this one. As always, Daphne sends love to her daughter Mirabelle (who probably wouldn't be here if it weren't for Live Arts).

KATHERINE NIES | **Musical Direction Team**

Katherine (she/her) says her passion for theater began at four years old when she saw Levar Burton's interview with Loni Ackerman. For the past 20 years she has performed with hundreds of artists including stars from the Kennedy Center, The Metropolitan Opera, and Broadway (Jenny DiNioa, *Wicked*). She runs her own music studio and is the pianist for Charlottesville Ballet.

LAURA RIKARD | **Intimacy Consultant**

Laura (she/her) is co-founder and head faculty of Theatre Intimacy Education. Laura choreographs, consults, and teaches workshops on best practices for staging intimacy for professional and educational theater and film across the country. She also serves as an intimacy coordinator for film/TV. She received the Kennedy Center Medallion for her contributions to intimacy direction. She is a graduate of UVA's MFA acting program and a mom of four-year-old twins. Insta: @lrikardlc

MAGGIE ROGERS | **Props Designer**

Maggie (she/her) is a local designer and fabricator. Her recent credits include designing props, and one very long braid, for INTO THE WOODS (Live Arts, 2022) and opening cans of tuna backstage for THE CHILDREN (Live Arts, 2022).

MANDY SHUKER | **Production Stage Manager**

Mandy (she/her) has enjoyed being a part of this talented cast and crew! You may have seen her on stage at Live Arts as Beth in THE MOM JOURNALS (2021) and Casey in *Irish Creek* (LOCALLY SOURCED 2019), or playing stage manager Poppy in *Noises Off* at Four County Players. Or maybe you've glimpsed her backstage as the stage manager for *As You Like It*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, or *The Mousetrap* at Four County Players. Enjoy the show!

CARTER WALKER | **Assistant Stage Manager**

Carter (she/her) grew up doing community theater in the Shenandoah Valley. She recently moved to Charlottesville and is thrilled to work with Live Arts for the first time. Recent stage credits include Cassie Cooper in *Rumors* (Waynesboro Players, 2018) and Nurse Kelly in *Harvey* (Oak Grove Theater, 2022).

MEET THE BAND

KELLY CHAMBERS | **Violin**

Kelly (she/her) is a UVA graduate (class of 2012) from Virginia Beach, VA. She teaches violin to kids and adults at The Front Porch and Music and Arts in Charlottesville. She also plays violin for weddings and events and has played with the Blue Ridge Chamber Orchestra for the past five years. She loves musicals, having played in pit orchestras for *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma*, and a few others in years past. She enjoys sharing her musical adventures on her Instagram page @kellychambersviolinist.

CARL HAMILTON | **Percussion**

Carl is a Ph.D. classics student at UVA. Since 2013, he has played for musicals such as *Camp Rock*, *Once on This Island*, *Titanic*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He is excited for his first Live Arts production.

ELLIS NOLAN | **Bass**

Ellis (he/him) is a fourth year at UVA majoring in music. He plays bass in the UVA Jazz Ensemble, the local jam band Souwa Cweam, and in various other bands around Charlottesville. He also regularly posts beats and other musical content on his Instagram page @ellissworld.

GRAEME ROSNER | **Musical Direction Team/Band Leader**

Graeme (he/him) is a musician and composer from Charlottesville. He played in the pit orchestra during all four of his years at Charlottesville High School, and studied composition and french horn performance at the University of South Carolina. Graeme is a producer at WNRN and plays in the local band Mayday.

STELLA SOKOLOWSKI | **Guitar**

Stella (she/her) is a recent graduate from Princeton University, where she studied philosophy and music performance. She is a Charlottesville native and has performed locally for many years, primarily as a jazz guitarist and singer-songwriter. She is so excited to finally work with Live Arts!

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If there is an error or you would like your name to appear in a different format, please contact Development Manager Ronda Hewitt at ronda@livearts.org.

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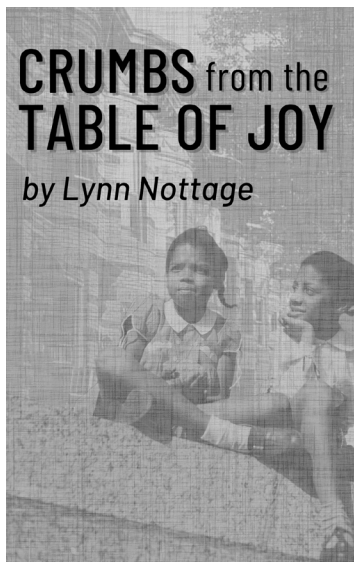
Auditions for **CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY**

December 3-4, 2022

A touching memory play about a Black family in Brooklyn in 1950, written by **Lynn Nottage** and directed by **Ti Ames** at Live Arts.

Performances: March 3-19, 2023

Learn more at livearts.org/audition.



Mentor/Apprentice Interest Meeting for Teens

Monday, November 28 at 5:30pm

This **unique, hands-on experience** will match teen apprentices with experienced designers and production team members throughout production of **CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY**, on stage at Live Arts this March.

RSVP at livearts.org.

Find current volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved at

livearts.org/volunteer

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THE RIVER

by Jez Butterworth

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