Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly

Sept. 27 - Oct. 6
5/3 Bank Theatre
Aronoff Center
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THEATRE & DANCE

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HOWARD CRABTREE'S
WHEN PIGS FLY

Conceived by Howard Crabtree & Mark Waldrop
Sketches and Lyrics by Mark Waldrop
Music by Dick Gallagher

Sept. 27 - Oct. 6, 2024
5/3 Bank Theatre at the Aronoff Center

Directed by
Michael W. Hatton

Music Director
Michael Spresser

Props Designer
Eric Barker

Costume Designer
Cat Schmeal-Swope
Missy J. White

Scenic Designer
Rob Kerby

Sound Designer
Jo Sanburg

Lighting Designer
Payne Ackermann*

Stage Manager
Jordan Kerr*

Choreographer
Hunter Broyles*

Assistant Director
Elijah Medsker*

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SETTING

A small New York City theatre, Present Day

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Prologue
When Pigs Fly
You've Got to Stay In the Game
Torch Song # 1
Light in the Loafers
Coming Attractions with Carol Anne
Not All Man
Torch Song # 2
A Patriotic Finale

ACT 2

Wear Your Vanity With Pride
Hawaiian Wedding Day
Shaft of Love
Sam and Me
Bigger is Better
Torch Song # 3
Laughing Matters
Miss Roundhole Returns
Over the Top / When Pigs Fly (reprise)

CAST LIST

Mark ..... Mark Schutzman*
Bodie ..... Bodie Moore *
Jathan ..... Jathan Briscoe *
Luc ..... Luc Vandenbroek *
Howard ..... Charlie Norman *

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Artistic Director ..... Michael W. Hatton
Director ..... Michael W. Hatton
Production Manager ..... Alexandra Deaton
Music Director ..... Michael Spresser
Choreographer ..... Hunter Broyles*
Choreography Advisor ..... Jeri Gatch, Genevieve Perrino
Assistant Director ..... Elijah Medsker*
Howard U/S, Bodie U/S ..... Elijah Medsker*
Dramaturg ..... Gabby Casto*
Stage Manager ..... Jordan Kerr*
Assistant Stage Managers ..... Alexa Morelle*, Jericah Greene*
Scenic Designer ..... Rob Kerby
Assitant Scenic Designer ..... Eric Barker
Props Designer ..... Eric Barker
Scenic Charge Artists ..... Eric Barker, Anna Schwartz
Assistant Paint Charge ..... Phia Veshapidze*
Technical Director ..... Rob Kerby
Scene Shop Supervisor ..... Anna Schwartz
Build Crew ..... Emmie Brewer*, Sierra Conner*, Isaiah Burton*, Cindy Ernest, Joshua Graner, Aja Love, Tristan Pianovsky*, Macie Becker*, Andrew Kelm*, Bodie Moore*, Chloe Rachal, Declan Kessen, Ace Moore*, Max Haug
Scene Shop Assistants ..... Zhenya Huber*, Catherine Myers*, Aspen Knight*, Tessa Holifield*, Ace Moore*
Costume Designer ..... Cat Schmeal-Swope, Missy J. White

Wig/Hair/Makeup Designer ..... Missy J. White
Assistant Costume Designer ..... Codi Rasor*
Costume Shop Manager ..... Cat Schmeal-Swope
Cutter/Draper ..... Cat Schmeal-Swope
Costume Shop Assistants ..... Codi Rasor*, Jessie Jones*, Annie Yuan*, Bodie Moore*, Hades Whalen*
Stitchers ..... Jeanne Crutchly, Marlo D'Ascenzo*, Lucy Bickers*, Afton Skeeters*, Luc Vandenbroek*, Austin Mills, Olivia Ott, Ella Cooper, Bryn Studer, Kristin Kaufman*, Kate Sexton*, Brenna Bray*, Mabrey Rice*
Wig Master ..... Missy J. White
Lighting Designer ..... Payne Ackermann*
Master Electrician ..... Jo Sanburg
Sound Designer ..... Jo Sanburg
Assistant Sound Designer ..... Cara Laub*
Light Board Operator ..... Phoenix Bills*
Sound Board Operator ..... Kennedy Kirkland*
Follow Spot Operator ..... Wolf Singer*
Backstage Run Crew ..... Samm Allphin, Brooke Boein, Isabel Harper*, Bella Cornett
Wardrobe Supervisors ..... Braedan Criss*, Lily Hotkewicz*
Wardrobe Crew ..... Brielle Storer*, Abigail Buring*, Sydney Hall*, Arabella Morgan*, Serenity Newell-Goodwin
Production Photographer ..... Tammy Cassesa
Program Head, Theatre & Dance ..... Michael W. Hatton
Interim Associate Director ..... Amy Gillingham-Culligan
Acting Director, Associate Director, SOTA ..... Ronald A. Shaw
Director, SOTA ..... Matthew Albritton

***denotes BFA Status**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dean Walz, Evelyn Schmeal, Jeanne Crutchley, Dr. Lavette Burton, Caracole, Jamey Strawn, Jeri Gatch, Genevieve Perrino, Cincinnati Arts Association, James Wiederhold, Brian Wylie, Shawn Wellik, Justin Fuller

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly was the first production I ever saw in New York City. Needless to say, it made quite the impression upon the newly out, young, gay man that I was. While at the time I certainly didn't catch all of the double entendre or understand some of the allusions, what stayed with me was the unapologetic way the characters on stage lived their lives openly and without apology. This was something I hadn't seen before in my rural Kentucky upbringing. While I had seen a few examples of camp humor on TV shows like "Soap", "Are You Being Served", and from the iconic Hollywood center square, Paul Lynde, this was my introduction to camp humor, drag, and its incredible over-the-top fashion. I'll be forever grateful to my Uncle Clark for introducing me to Broadway theatre and the gay community, and to Howard Crabtree, Mark Waldrop, and Dick Gallagher for sharing their fearless, witty, and utterly charming storytelling.

Fast forward 27 years and my goodness have things changed in our country! Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly was written and premiered the same year as another groundbreaking musical, Jonathan Larson's RENT, and both just three years after Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Angels in America: Millennium Approaches. Like his counterpart, Jonathan Larson, Howard Crabtree also did not get to enjoy the opening night of his musical due to succumbing to complications from HIV/AIDS. While quite different in style and form, all three pieces capture important aspects of the gay male experience of the mid-1990s in the United States. While the character of Louis in Angels in America struggles with the fear associated with caring for his sick partner, Prior, and potentially contracting HIV in the process, the character of Howard in When Pigs Fly sings a song about his dream of falling in love with another man and hopefully one day being allowed to get married. At this time, the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) were put into place, further ostracizing LGBTQ individuals and polarizing the country. In the subsequent years, great medical advancements have been made in the care, treatment, and prevention of HIV, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and "DOMA" were struck down, and in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, marriage equality was finally made a reality. In fact, just a few blocks away from the Aronoff Center is the street named in honor of the plaintiffs of that very case, Jim Obergefell and John Arthur. In the 2018 revival of Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly, the original "Hawaiian Wedding Day" song was replaced since marriage equality was now a reality and singing about hopefully getting married one day in Hawaii no longer felt relevant to the story. Originally, the song was written to reflect the hope that Hawaii would be the first in the United States to legalize same-sex marriage. In light of recent political, legislative, and social changes in the United States, lyricist, Mark Waldrop, gave us permission to include the original song as a reminder of how far we've come as a community and how easily the rights we often take for granted can be taken away in an instant.

While the script was updated for the 2018 revival to reflect other social and political changes in the United States, the heart of the show remains unchanged and continues to withstand the tests of time, a tremendous compliment to the show's impeccable writing. This musical is a love letter to theatre and the wonderful things that keep bringing us back show after show, year after year. Savvy audience members will enjoy the subtle references to other shows and legendary performers, while everyone will enjoy the silliness designed to simply make us laugh. Like another legendary musical, Jerry Herman and Harvey Fierstein's La Cage aux Folles, the writers of Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly do not reference HIV/AIDS, instead wanting to provide joy, escapism, and some much-needed levity for their audiences. Keeping with the tradition of camp humor, the writers don't just provide hollow jokes, but give us a masterclass in satirical writing, still as relevant and still as tongue-in-cheek as ever.

In honor of LGBTQ+ History Month, this production is dedicated to all of the Dreamers like Howard Crabtree and Harvey Milk, the Poets like Mark Waldrop and Dick Gallagher, the Lovers like Jim Obergefell and John Arthur, the Activists like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, the Artists like Mickalene Thomas and Zanele Muholi, and the Allies, like you, whose very existence is an act of political power and who make the world a more colorful and better place.

PROFILES

Michael W. Hatton (Director) is an Associate Professor, serving as Head of the NKU Theatre & Dance Program. Mr. Hatton has served in various forms of university governance and service in the past twenty years. Mr. Hatton also serves as Chair of the executive board of the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA) and is an active education abroad administrator and teacher, specifically in the United Kingdom. He has worked with multiple educational theatre programs, including the Cincinnati Cappies, CAST, the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Uptown Arts, and many others. Mr. Hatton has served as chair of the Pedagogy Symposium for the Mid-America Theatre Conference, and presented research and workshops at various conferences. Additionally, Mr. Hatton has won awards for teaching, including from the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and University as well as the NKU Michael C.C. and Susan S. Adams Outstanding Non-Tenure Track Faculty award. Mr. Hatton is a freelance director and stage manager having worked with several regional companies including the Cincinnati Arts Association, Lincoln Boyhood Drama Association, Cincinnati Overture Awards, Showstoppers/Belterra Casino, Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Professional Concepts, the New Edgecliff Theatre, and the Performance Gallery. Mr. Hatton received his MFA in Theatre Pedagogy and Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Cat Schmeal-Swope (Costume Designer) is the Costume Shop Manager at Northern Kentucky University School of the Arts. Various costume design credits include: Hands on a Hardbody (Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati), Beautiful: The Carol King Musical (The Carnegie), 9 to 5 (NKU), Looped (The Human Race Theatre Company), Little Shop of Horrors (The Carnegie), The African Company Presents Richard III (NKU), Around the World in 80 Days (The Human Race Theatre Company), Daddy Long Legs (CATCO), Othello (Ohio St. U. in collaboration w. Royal Shakespeare Co.), True West (Minnesota St. U. Mankato).Cat holds an MFA in Theatre Design from The Ohio State University and a BFA in Theatre with an emphasis in Costumes from NKU. Cat would like to send a big thank you to Evelyn Schmeal, Andrew Swope, Missy White, Alexandra Deaton, Becca McNay, Hannah Dringenburg & all the students who helped with costumes on this production.

Rob Kerby (Technical Director, Scenic Designer) is a 1987 alumni of the Theatre & Dance Program with a BFA in Theatre Technology and also received his MFA in 2001 from the University of Illinois in Theatre Technology. He has worked at various educational and professional settings including Walt Disney World, The Ohio State University, Indiana State University and The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois. Along with being the technical director for the productions, Rob has also designed scenery for many productions including *Love and Communication* and *Les Misérables* for the Theatre & Dance Program.

Michael Spresser (Music Director) is thrilled to be music director for his first NKU Theatre & Dance production where he also serves as the NKU Music Prep Mainstage Musical Theatre Company music director. With over forty years of experience Michael is a sought-after music director, vocal coach, and accompanist, performing in over fifty cities across the US, Canada, Sweden, Finland, and the former Soviet Union. Career highlights include: providing choral editorial assistance to composers including Sheldon Harnick, Stephen Schwartz, Michael Gore, Matthew Sklar, Eric Whitacre, and more recently, the team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul; becoming a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (The Grammys), and helping stage the opening of ten Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades.

Eric Barker (Assistant Scenic Designer, Props Designer) is excited to be joining NKU's faculty as their new Assistant Professor of Scenic Design for SOTA. He is currently designing A Frosty Night at The Human Race Theatre. His recent professional design credits include: Scenic Designer for The Play That Goes Wrong for NKU's SOTA; Properties Designer & Artisan for Measure for Measure, The Three Musketeers, King Lear and Twelfth Night for Montana Shakespeare in the Park, Scenic Designer for As You Like It at The Richmond Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare In Love and As You Like It for Shakespeare Dallas; The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged for The Human Race Theatre, Romeo & Juliet and, The Cay for the Indiana Repertory Theatre; King Lear and Comedy of Errors for The Richmond

Shakespeare Festival; Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike for CATCO; I and You for The Repertory Theater of St Louis; The Glass Menagerie for The Human Race Theatre; Armide and The Marriage of Figaro for Opera Columbus; The Elephant Man, Peter and The Starcatcher, The Final Table and My Name is Asher Lev for CATCO; A Midsummer Night's Dream and Titus Andronicus for The Richmond Shakespeare Festival; The Merry Wives of Windsor at Santa Cruz Shakespeare; The Marriage of Figaro, The Merry Widow, Spring Awakening and Twelfth Night at Chapman University; Twelfth Night and Macbeth for Shakespeare Orange County. Eric received his MFA in Scenic Design from the University of California, Irvine and his BA from The Ohio State University. ericbarkerdesigns.com

Jo Sanburg (Master Electrician, Sound Designer) is a lighting and sound designer for theatre, pyrotechnics, and multimedia, and a composer. She holds an M.F.A. in Design and Technology from the University of Memphis, and a B.A. in Music and Education from Loretto Heights College. Jo also serves on the USITT Lighting Commission as Vice Commissioner for Education and Training. Jo's lighting design credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Lightning Thief*, *The Princess Plays*, *In the Heights*, *Marie Antoinette*, *Cosi Fan Tutte*, and the world premiere of Kenley Smith's *Empires of Eternal Void*. Her sound designs include *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Henry V*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Secret in the Wings*, *As You Like It*, and *Anon(ymous)*. Jo has won numerous awards for her design work, including the John T. Spiegel Award for Excellence in Design, Peggy Ezekiel Award of Distinction, Ezekiel Award for Outstanding Achievement, Ostrander Award for Excellence in Sound Design, and the Southeastern Theatre Conference's Award for Excellence in Sound Design. She has designed lights for the American College Dance Association, and her sound design work was exhibited at the 2019 Prague Quadrennial.

Missy J. White (Wig/Hair/Makeup Designer, Wig Master) holds a BFA from the School of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) and a Masters in Hair and Makeup Design for Theatrical Production from the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) from the University of Cincinnati. Missy served as Wig Shop Manager (2015) and Wig Master (2016) for the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. She has been teaching Stage Makeup and Wig Construction at NKU since 2019. Previous design credits include How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Ah, Wilderness!, Idomeneo, Peter and the Starcatcher, and 9 to 5.

Payne Ackermann // BFA Theatre Design/Technology - Lighting Design
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Assistant Lighting Designer), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Assistant Production Electrician), *9 to 5: The Musical* (Assistant Production Electrician), *Amélie: The Musical* (Special Effects Designer) // **The Henry Konstantinow Theatre**: *Sunday in the Park with George* (Lighting Designer), *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play* (Assistant Lighting Designer)

Phoenix Bills // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Dennis), First Year Showcase 2022 - *Macbeth* (Macduff), *Twelfth Night* (Officer #1) // **Cincinnati Landmark Productions:** *Escape to Margaritaville* (Ensemble), *Man of La Mancha* **(**Muleteer**),Footlighters Inc.:** *The Music Man* (Tommy Djilas), **InnOVATION Arts Academy:** *Mary Poppins Jr.* (Bert), **Spotlight Acting School:** *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mr. Mushnik), *Shrek Jr.* (Shrek)

Jathan "JB" Briscoe // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Jonathan), *The Princess Plays* (Tango/Dragon Puppeteer), *9 to 5 The Musical* (Franklin Hart Jr.) // **Lexington Children's Theatre:** *Shrek The Musical* (Donkey), **The Carnegie:** *The Carole King Musical* (Drifter/Ensemble), *Kinky Boots* (Don), **The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati:** *Cinderella Youth Edition* (Herald), **Warsaw Federal Incline**: *Jersey Boys* (Barry Belson), **Voices Amplified**: *The Prom* (Nick)

Hunter Broyles // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *9 to 5 The Musical* (Ensemble/Co-Choreographer/ U/S Joe), *Emerging Choreographer's Showcase 2023* (Choreographer), *The Princess Plays* (Waltzie/Puppeteer/Ensemble), // **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari:** *Santa's Pool Party/Light the Night* (Actor/Dancer), **The Carnegie:** *Hello, Dolly!* (Ensemble), **Kings Island:** *Phantom Theater Encore!* (Dancer), **Cincinnati Landmark Productions**: *Newsies* (Mush/Bill)

Abigail Buring // BFA Theatre Performance - Dance Pedagogy

Gabby Casto // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *Amelie The Musical* (Amandine Poulain, Philomene de Noirpois, Ensemble), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Voice 4, Mrs. Alexander U/S), *The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson The Musical* (Sally Jackson/The Oracle), *First Year Showcase 2021* (Sister A) // **The Carnegie:** *The Carole King Musical* (Marilyn Wald / Ensemble, U/S Cynthia Weil), **Horn in the West Outdoor Drama**: *Horn in the West* (Ensemble, Mary/Martha/Widow U/S), **The Henry Konstantinow Student Series:** *The Wild Party* (Kate), **Epiphany Players:** *The Music Man* (Ethel Toffelmier)

Braedan Criss // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *9 to 5 The Musical* (Josh/Ensemble), *Princess Plays* (Boots/Dragon Puppeteer), *Macbeth* (Malcom) // **Derby Dinner Playhouse:** *The Sound of Music* (Rolf Gruber), **The Henry Konstantinow Student Series:** *Wit* (Jason Posner)

Jericah Greene // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (Swing), *Macbeth* (Seaton, Witch #3) //
ACT Louisville: *The Prom* (Alyssa Greene)

Sydney Hall // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
Spotlight Acting School: *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Mean Girls* (Regina George)*, The Addams Family* (Morticia), **Madison Central High School:** *Cinderella* (Cinderella)

Lily Hotkewicz // BFA Theatre Performance - Acting

Jordan Kerr // BFA Theatre Performance - Playwrighting
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Peter and the Starcactcher* (Run Crew), *Macbeth* (Angus/Props Designer) // **The Henry Konstantinow Theatre:** *Wit* (Stage Manager), *Little Women The Musical* (Stage Manager), **The Opera Theater of St. Louis:** *Barber of Seville* (Properties Crew), *La Boheme* (Properties Crew), *Galileo Galilei* (Properties Crew), *Tosca* (Deck Crew), *Susannah* (Deck Crew)

Kennedy Kirkland // BFA Theatre Performance - Acting
NKU: *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth) // **Footlighters:** *Legally Blonde* (Pilar)

Aspen Knight // BFA Theatre Design/Technology - Scenic Design
NKU: *Amelie The Musical* (Scene Shop Assistant), *9 to 5 The Musical* (Assistant Scenic Designer/Shop Assistant), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Scene Shop Assistant), *the Princess Plays* (Scene Shop Assistant) // **Opera Theatre of St. Louis:** *Susannah, Cosi fan Tutte, Tosca, Treemonisha* (Deck Crew)

Cara Laub// BFA Theatre Design/Technology - Sound Design, Lighting Design
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Assistant Sound Designer, Sound Tech, Board Operator), *Amelie The Musical* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Assistant Sound Designer), *The Princess Plays* (Sound Board Operator), *Twelfth Night* (Assistant Stage Manager) //
NKU Music Prep: *Seussical Jr.* (Sound Designer), **Tent Theatre:** *Mystic Pizza, Crimes of the Heart, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (A2)

Elijah Medsker // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
The Henry Konstantinow Student Series: *Sunday in the Park with George* (Mister/Lee Randolph)**, Cincinnati Music Theatre:** *Children of Eden* (Abel/Storyteller), *The Prom* (Ensemble)

Bodie Moore// BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Chris/Inspector)*, Dance '24* (Company), *First Year Showcase 2023* (Performer) // **Theatre Workshop of Owensboro:** *The Lightning Thief Musical* (Percy Jackson), *Shrek* (Lord Farquaad), **Rose Curtain Players:** *Into the Woods* (Wolf/Cinderella's Prince), **Owensboro Dance Theatre:** *The Nutcracker* (Uncle Drosselmeyer)

Alexa Morelle // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *Dance '23* (Company), *First Year Showcase 2022 - Macbeth* (Murderer #2, Apparition #3) //
The Henry Konstantinow Student Series: *Wit* (Vivian Bearing), *Little Women* (Mrs. Kirk, U/S Amy),
Red Phoenix Theatre Company: *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad), *Catch Me If You Can* (Carol Strong)

Arabella Morgan // BFA Dance

Serenity Newell-Goodwin // 3D Digital Design & VFX Major, Theatre Minor

Charlie Norman// BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *Dance '24* (Company), *First Year Showcase 2023 -* (Performer) //
The Henry Konstantinow Student Series: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Horatio/Tragedian),
Youth Performing Arts School: *Elf the Musical* (Buddy the Elf)

Codi Rasor // BFA Theatre Design/Technology - Costume Design
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Assistant Costume Designer)**,** *Amelie The Musical, Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (Costume Shop Assistant), *9 to 5 The Musical* (Backstage Wardrobe Manager), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Wardrobe Crew), *Macbeth* (Costume Designer) //**Opera Theatre of Saint Louis:** *The Barber of Seville, La Boheme, Julius Caesar* (Wardrobe Crew), **The Carnegie:** *Hello Dolly!*, *Kinky Boots*, *Guys and Dolls***,** *Lady Day at Emersons Bar and Grill* (Wardrobe Supervisor)

Mark Schutzman // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre, BA International Studies
NKU: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Dr. H.K. Lanyon/Mr. Hyde), *First Year Showcase 2021* (The Captain) //
The Carnegie: *Willy Wonka* (Ensemble), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Ensemble),
The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati: *Annie Jr.* (Ensemble), The Cincinnati Opera: *Turandot* (Chorus)

Wolf Singer // BFA Theatre Performance - Acting
CAST: *Rent* (Paul, The Man, Ensemble), **WHHS Theatre Department:** *Rock Ages Jr.* (Assistant Director), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Sound and Set Designer), *Chicago* (Billy Flynn)

Brielle Storer // BFA Theatre Design/Technology - Musical Theatre
La Comedia: *Beauty and the Beast* (Ensemble), *Footloose* (Ensemble), *Sound of Music* (Ensemble)

Luc Vandenbroek // BFA Theatre Performance - Musical Theatre
NKU: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Robert Grove), *Dance '24* (Dancer), *First Year Showcase 2023* (Performer**)** // **Voices Amplified:** *Head Over Heels* (Ensemble), *The Prom* (Ensemble/Barry U/S), **Woodford County High School:** *Big Fish* (Edward Bloom), *Mamma Mia!* (Harry Bright)

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DRAMATURGICAL REFERENCES

Arnold Ziffel was the porcine character featured in Green Acres, an American situation comedy that aired on CBS from 1965 to 1971, starring Eva Gabor and Eddie Albert.

Cyd Charisse was an American dancer and actress known for her glamorous looks and sensual technically flawless dancing in 1950s movie musicals. Most notable were her appearances with actor Gene Kelly in the musical Singin' in the Rain.

Busby Berkeley was an American film director and musical choreographer. His movies were very popular in the 1930s and 1940s. Berkeley devised elaborate musical production numbers that often involved complex geometric patterns.

Mario Lanza was an American tenor and actor. He was a Hollywood film star popular in the late 1940s and the 1950s. He was especially known for his operatic music. "Mario could sing through all three registers effortlessly, without conspicuous gear change."

Light in the Loafers - The phrase "light in the loafers" stems to the 1950s and refers to the "mincing" or "effeminate walking" that's associated with some gay men, according to Matthew Riemer, author of the new LGBTQ history book "We Are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation."

Ethel Merman was an American actress and singer. Known for her distinctive, powerful voice, and her leading roles in musical theater, she has been called "the undisputed First Lady of the musical comedy stage." She performed on Broadway in Anything Goes, Annie Get Your Gun, Gypsy, and Hello, Dolly!

Sophie Tucker was an American singer, comedian, actress, and radio personality. Known for her powerful delivery of comical and risqué songs, she was one of the most popular entertainers in the U.S. during the first half of the 20th century. She was known by the nickname "the Last of the Red-Hot Mamas".

Bewitched is an American television sitcom fantasy series about a beautiful witch named Samantha who meets and marries a mortal named Darrin Stephens, a New York ad exec who is shocked to discover that his bride is a witch, and who forbids her from using magic. While Samantha tries to comply with Darrin's wishes and lead the life of a typical suburban housewife, her magical family, led by her mother Endora and father Maurice, disapproves of the mixed marriage and frequently interferes in the couple's lives. Endora refuses even to speak Darrin's name correctly, alternately calling him "Derwood", "What's-his-name", "Darwin", "Dum-Dum", etc., all much to his annoyance.

Ziegfeld Follies / Florenz Edward Ziegfeld Jr. was an American Broadway impresario, notable for his series of theatrical revues, the Ziegfeld Follies, inspired by the Folies Bergère of Paris. He also produced the musical Show Boat. He was known as the "glorifier of the American girl".

DOMA - The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was enacted in 1996 and defined marriage, at the federal level, as the union of one man to one woman. DOMA was primarily brought about by a fear that if states granted same-sex couples the right to marry, the federal government, and other states would have to honor those marriages. Section 3 of the act was struck down in 2013 by the decision in United States v. Windsor.

Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon was the world's longest-running musical revue, which began its run in 1974 and closed in 2019. Known for its reference of gay icons, song and dance, and massive wigs and headdresses, this show reflected camp humor at its finest.

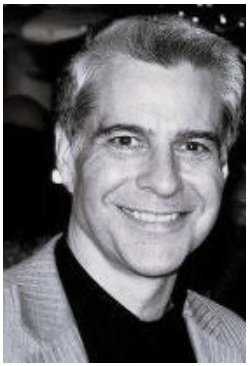
Bob Mackie is an American costume designer known for his extravagant designs and use of feathers, rhinestones, and high glamor. Mr. Mackie began his professional design career working on the Carol Burnett Show where he created the famous "Gone With the Wind" curtain dress. His designs have been worn by countless global entertainers, such as Cher and RuPaul, and remains one of the world's most iconic and recognizable designers. Mr. Mackie designed the costumes for the 2018 revival of Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly, paying homage to Mr. Crabtree's original designs.

Shaft (1971 film) is an American blaxploitation crime action thriller film directed by Gordon Parks and written by Ernest Tidyman and John D. F. Black. It is an adaptation of Tidyman's novel of the same name and the plot revolves around a private detective named John Shaft who is hired by a Harlem mobster to rescue his daughter from the Italian mobsters who kidnapped her. The film explores themes including masculinity and sexuality, with a specific emphasis on Black Power. The Shaft soundtrack album, recorded by Isaac Hayes, was also a success, winning a Grammy Award for Best Original Score Written for a Motion Picture. The "Theme from Shaft" won the Academy Award for Best Original Song, making Hayes the first Black man to win the award for that category.

WRITER'S BIOS

HOWARD CRABTREE:

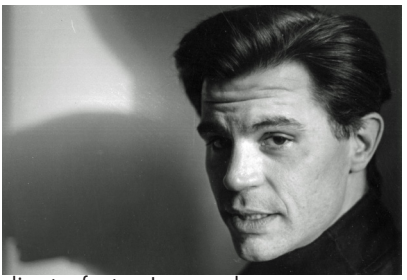
Howard Crabtree was born on November 5, 1954 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Named after his father, Crabtree's childhood nickname "Bud" or "Buddy" became part of his stage name for many years. He earned the distinction "most musical" in his senior high school class, and attended college for a year (1973-1974) at Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City. Crabtree stayed in Kansas City for the next two years working with the Missouri Dance Theatre as a dancer and choreographer. In November 1976 he and his first significant boyfriend, Troy Sharp, moved to Las Vegas for more career opportunities. An ensemble role in Folies Bergère soon followed. The costumes and classic Vegas showgirls he encountered there had a lasting impression and their influence can be found in his productions. After moving to New York City with another boyfriend (Buddy Vest), Crabtree worked in restaurants while going to auditions. In the summer of 1978 he had two roles at the Gateway Playhouse on Long Island – in the chorus for Pippin, and as Rocky in The Rocky Horror Show. Six months later, in March 1979, he moved to Canada to pursue ballet. He joined the City Ballet of Toronto, and stayed with this company for the next five seasons. In addition to being a principal dancer, Crabtree choreographed many pieces, and designed costumes for productions such as The Nutcracker, Peter and the Wolf, and Alice in Wonderland. During the mid-1980s, Crabtree returned to New York and worked in the wardrobe departments of several Broadway shows. While working backstage at La Cage aux Folles, he and a friend, Drew Geraci, created a cabaret act called Howard and Drew Meet the Invisible Man. This was Crabtree's first club act, and they earned rave reviews for their performances at Don't Tell Mama's. The director of Howard and Drew was Mark Waldrop, with whom Crabtree formed a partnership under the name Figment Productions in 1988. The two of them began work on Whatnot, in which four actors, including Crabtree, played a multitude of roles in a variety show. This show opened the 1990 season for the Off-Off Broadway organization Musical Theater Works, at the Theater at Saint Peter's Church. The next show conceived by Crabtree and Waldrop was When Pigs Fly, a cabaret extravaganza with seven performances at the Duplex Bar in June 1991. This prepared them for the larger scale production that followed called Whoop-Dee-Doo of '92, which had a brief engagement at the Actor's Playhouse on Sheridan Square. After refining the libretto, and shortening the work's name to Whoop-Dee-Doo!, the revue returned to the Actor's Playhouse for eight months in 1993-94 and then went on the road to Boston. During this time period, Crabtree and his companion, Danny Gates, moved from Manhattan to a farmhouse in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. They hosted weekend-long drag parties for their New York friends, and used the property's barn as a workshop to develop new costumes. The success of Whoop-Dee-Doo! led to an even more outrageously designed show that built upon, and used the same title as the earlier cabaret act When Pigs Fly. Unfortunately, Crabtree's health was in decline due to AIDS, and this forced him to have a reduced role in working on the show. All of his strength went into building the costumes, and he died a few days after completing them, on June 28, 1996. The show opened on August 14 and lived on after him, though, by playing Off-Broadway for two years and winning several awards.



MARK WALDROP:

Mark wrote the acclaimed 75th Anniversary edition of Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular, which he also scripted. He has continued to write all new lyrics and dialogue for the show from then to the present. Off-Broadway, he wrote book and lyrics for Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly (1996 Drama Desk Award /Best Revue, Outer Critic's Circle Award/ Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical, OBIE) and contributed lyrics to: Pete 'n' Keely, Howard Crabtree's Whoop-dee-doo and Hey, Love: The Songs of Mary Rodgers. He created special material for Bea Arthur on Broadway (2002 Tony nomination, Unique Theatrical Event) and Bette Midler's Divine Miss Millennium tour, both of which he also directed. For TheaterWorks, USA he was lyricist for A Christmas Carol, Gold Rush and Bunnicula, with a book by Charles Busch and music by Sam Davis. He's also crafted lyrics for many industrial shows, benefits and club acts. Luck!, a musical based on an Isaac Bashevis Singer story, with music by Brad Ross and book and lyrics by Mr. Waldrop, is published by Samuel French. The Scottish Musical, a freewheeling and ridiculous retelling of Macbeth, was selected for development by Goodspeed Musicals in 2009. Mr. Waldrop enjoys a busy career as a director, working off-Broadway on small-cast comedies and revues and regionally on large-scale classic musicals. As a performer, he was in the original Broadway casts of Evita and La Cage Aux Folles. His voice can be heard on the soundtracks of Disney's Aladdin, Pocohontas and Mulan. Mr. Waldrop is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.

DICK GALLAGHER:



He played the piano for performers at many New York City venues, such as Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, the Oak Room at the Algonquin, Rainbow & Stars, and the Carlyle. He was the musical arranger for many performers, including Liza Minnelli and Karen Akers. For many years he was the arranger, accompanist and conductor for Patti LuPone, and with writer-director Scott Wittman created several shows for LuPone. He was the arranger and musical director for two Lupone shows on Broadway: Matters of the Heart (2000) and Patti LuPone on Broadway (1995).

PB

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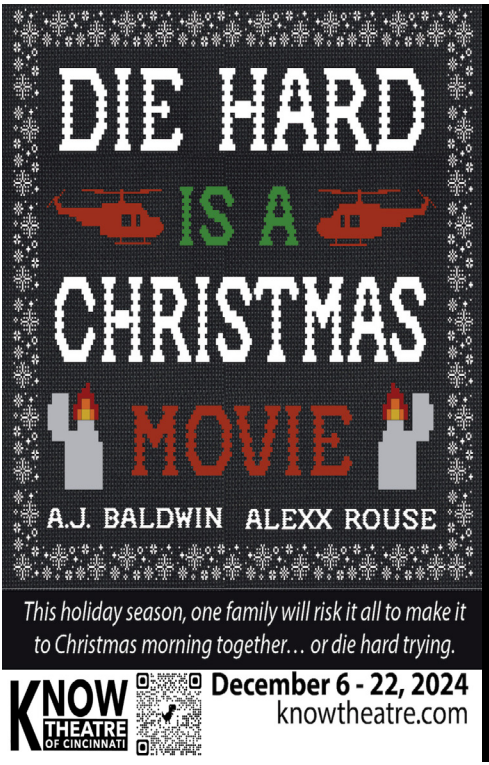

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