

# FIREBRAND THEATRE

Presents

*in partnership with Timeline Theatre Company*

# ***Caroline, or Change***

Music by **Jeanine Tesori**  
Book and Lyrics by **Tony Kushner**

*Originally Directed on Broadway by George C. Wolfe  
Originally Produced on Broadway by: Carole Shorenstein Hays,  
HBO Films, Jujamcyn Theatre, Freddy DeMann, Scott Rudin,  
Hendel/Morten/Wiesenfeld, Fox Theatricals/Manocherian/Bergere,  
Roger Berlind, Clear Channel Entertainment, Joan Cullman,  
Greg Holland/Scott Nederlander, Margo Lion, Daryl Roth,  
Zollo/Sine in association with the Public Theatre.*

*Originally Developed and Produced in October 2003 by the Public Theatre;  
George C. Wolfe, Producer; Mara Manus, Executive Producer.*

Direction by **Lili-Anne Brown \*+**  
Music Direction by **Andra Velis Simon+**

Firebrand Theatre's 2018-19 season sponsor:

**Michael and Mona Heath of the HeathFund**

## PERFORMERS

Caroline.....	Rashada Dawan*
Radio 3.....	Roberta Burke
Grandpa Gellman .....	Kevin M. Grubb
Dotty .....	Nicole Michelle Haskins
Grandma Gellman.....	Rosalind Hurwitz
Emmie Thibodeaux.....	Bre Jacobs
Grandpa Stopnick .....	Michael Kingston
Jackie Thibodeaux.....	Princess Isis Z. Lang
Bus/Dryer.....	Micheal Lovette
Noah Gellman.....	Alejandro Medina
Radio 1.....	De'Jah Jervai
Rose Gellman .....	Blair Robertson
Stuart Gellman .....	Jonathan Schwart
Joe Thibodeaux.....	Lyric K. Sims
Moon/Washer .....	Tyler Symone+
Radio 2.....	Emma Sipora Tyler

## UNDERSTUDIES

Bus/Dryer.....	Jonathan Allsop
Dotty .....	Roberta Burke
Radio 2 & 3 .....	Kirby Gibson
Grandpa Stopnick .....	Kevin Grubb
Radio 1/ Joe & Jackie Thibodeaux .....	Tori James
Caroline, Moon/Washer.....	De'Jah Jervai
Stuart & Grandpa Gellman.....	Ted Kitterman
Noah Gellman.....	Marko McRae
Rose & Grandma Gellman .....	Corrbette Pasko
Emmie Thibodeaux.....	Tyler Symone+

## MUSICIANS

Keyboard/Conductor, .....	Andra Velis Simon+
Reeds .....	Emily Beisel
Violin .....	Kimberly Lawson
Guitars .....	Myles Bacon
Drums/Percussion.....	Yulia Block

## PRODUCTION & STAFF

Producing Artistic Director .....	Harmony France+
Production Manager .....	Heather Larkin
On-site Production Manager.....	Benjamin Baylon
Associate Director/ Choreographer.....	Brigitte Ditmars
Scenic Designer.....	Lauren Nichols
Technical Director .....	Abigail Reed
Associate Technical Director.....	Jacob Mulcahy
Sound Designer .....	Victoria Deiorio***
Sound Associate Designer .....	Amanda Sager
Sound Associate Designer .....	David Samba
Sound Operator .....	Giselle Castro
Lighting Designer.....	Cat Wilson ***
Master Electrician .....	Richie Vavrina
Costume Designer .....	Kotryna Hilko
Electronic Music Designer.....	Ethan Deppe
Stage Manager .....	J C Widman
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Kirby Gibson
Wardrobe.....	Serena Sandoval
Child Wrangler/Crew .....	Joshanna Robinson
Casting .....	Adelina Feldman-Schultz+
PR Agency .....	David Rosenberg Public Relations
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\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage Managers.

\*\* The director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national and theatrical labor union.

\*\*\* Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, a labor union and professional association of Designers, Artists and Craftspeople.

+ Company member of Firebrand Theatre

## SPECIAL THANKS

Adam Veness, Scott Dickens, Writers Theatre, Josh Sobel, Arnel Sancianco, Fred Anzevino, Julia Schade Armstrong, Bonnie Shadrake, Jermaine Hill, Lisa McQueen, Spencer Meeks, Julia Merchant, Ellen Morris, Robert Ollis, Kailey Rockwell, Jon Schneidman, James Simon, Natalie Scott, Caswell James

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Firebrand Theatre is on Facebook (@firebrandtheatrechicago), Instagram (@firebrand.theatre), and Twitter (@FirebrandChi) Learn more about our company, our mission, donate, or become a season subscriber at [firebrandtheatre.org](http://firebrandtheatre.org). Don't forget to use the hashtags #CarolineFire and #FirebrandChi to spread the word!



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or call 312-332-0518*



**Roberta Burke** (Radio 3) is new to Chicago and is loving the Windy City. She recently closed *Peter Pan the Musical* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater)

and has enjoyed working at prominent theaters like The Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Here Theater in New York City. She studied musical theater at Carnegie Mellon University. When Roberta is not acting you can find her volunteering in international missions. Roberta would like to thank Firebrand Theatre for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful cast/team and Paonessa Talent Agency for bringing us all together.



**Rashada Dawan** (Caroline Thibodeaux) is honored to play Caroline. After playing the title roles of *Aida* (Bailiwick Chicago) and Chaz Ebert in *Black*

*White Love Play* (Black Ensemble Theatre), she is humbled to tell this story through such a beautifully human and relevant character within American history. Rashada dedicates this show to her grandmother, Maylene Abdullah-Bey. She recently appeared in *Elf* (Paramount), *Madagascar* (Marriott), *The Winner of Our Discontent* (Second City), *A Red Line Runs Through It* (Second City) and can be seen in the currently running "Instantly" commercial for ComEd. Other theatre credits include *Big River* (BoHo Theatre), *The Nutcracker* (Marriott) and *Disney's The Lion King* (Las Vegas & Gazelle National Tour). TV/ Film credits include *Hope Springs Eternal* (pilot) *Easy* (Netflix). She would like to thank her Village, friends and most of all her beautiful daughters Genesis (currently playing "Maisha" on Showtime's *The Chi*) and Journey (who can count to 15 at 1 year old). Thank you, God, for this life. To learn

more about Rashada, her upcoming performances and advocacy for mental wellness through the arts, visit [www.bfliproductions.org](http://www.bfliproductions.org). [www.RashadaDawan.com](http://www.RashadaDawan.com)



**Kevin M. Grubb** (Grandpa Gellman) is delighted to be working on his first show with Firebrand, and returning to Timeline. He has

previously worked with Timeline in *Fiorello* and *Danny Casolaro Died for You*. He was recently seen as Stanley in *Richard III* (Museum of Fire). A former member of Open Eye Productions (RIP), some of his favorite roles include McKeever in *The Solid Gold Cadillac*; Byck in *Assassins* and Kolenkhov in *You Can't Take it with You*. Other theatre companies include Bailiwick Chicago, Bailiwick Repertory, Hell in a Handbag, Light Opera Works, Porchlight Music Theatre, Steppenwolf and others.



**Nicole Michelle Haskins** (Dotty) is beyond excited to begin this journey with Firebrand Theatre. Chicago credits include *Marie Christine* (Boho

Theatre), *Our Town* (Redtwist Theatre), *The Wiz* (Kokandy Productions; Black Theatre Alliance Award nom. for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, Jeff Award nom. for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, Chicago Theatre Award nom. for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical and Time Out Chicago Award nom. for Best Featured Performance in a Musical), *Parade* (Writers Theatre), *Rent* (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Jeff Award Nom. for Best Ensemble), *MUTT* (Stage Left Theatre with Red Tape Theatre) and *For Her as a Piano* (Pegasus Theatre). 2014 School at Steppenwolf Acting Fellow and is an

associate artist with Black Lives, Black Words International Theater collective and a MOSAIC Youth Theatre of Detroit alumnus. Detroit native and proudly represented by the fierce ladies of Shirley Hamilton Talent.



**Rosalind Hurwitz**

(Grandma Gellman) is so thrilled to make her Firebrand debut!

Recently Chicago-area performances include *The Csardas Princess*

(Folks Operetta), *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Main Street Opera), *Cabaret* (No Stakes Theatre), *The Light in the Piazza* (SLATE Theatre), *Far From Heaven* (Porchlight Music Theatre), and *Our Town* (The Hypocrites). Rosalind originated the role of Mrs. One in the musical *Adding Machine* (Next Theatre) and Daisy Quantock in *Queen Lucia* (Lifeline). She's also worked with Oak Park Festival Theatre, Remy Bumpo, and Circle Theatre. Regionally, she's performed at Fulton Opera House, Syracuse Stage and Florida Repertory Theatre. Offstage, Rosalind is a research speech-language pathologist in the Center for Aphasia Research and Treatment at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.



**Bre Jacobs** (Emmie Thibodeaux) is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. She's currently a junior at Columbia College Chicago, studying

Musical Theatre. Other credits include *Beehive: The 60's Musical* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre), *A Bird of Prey* (KC Film Festival), *Caroline, or Change* (Columbia College Chicago), and Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party* (Columbia College Chicago).



**De'Jah Jervai** (Radio 1) is a performing artist from Chicago's south side and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent! Some of her favorite recent credits

include Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical* (Wagon Wheel Theater) Caroline in Columbia College Chicago's *Caroline, or Change, The Wiz!* (Kokandy Productions) Women in charge of producing and telling their own stories has always ignited De'Jah's artistic spirit; she's honored to be working with Firebrand. [www.dejahjervai.com](http://www.dejahjervai.com)



**Michael Kingston**

(Grandpa Stopnick) is pleased to be a part this remarkable show. Recent Chicago credits include *Leave me Alone!* (The Story Theatre),

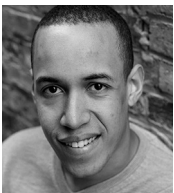
*Pillars of the Community* (Strawdog), Tracy Letts' *The Minutes* (Steppenwolf - Pulitzer Prize finalist), and *Ideation* (Jackalope - Jeff nominee - Ensemble). Favorites include *Bat Boy* (Griffin - Jeff nominee - Ensemble), *Hairspray* (Paramount), *The Light in the Piazza* (Jeff winner - Best Production), *Pippin* (Boho - Jeff nominee - Supporting Actor/Musical) and *Fiorello!* (TimeLine - Jeff nominee - Supporting Actor/Musical). He has also worked with Drury Lane, Porchlight, Red Tape, Theo Ubique, The Neo-Futurists, Hell In A Handbag, and Lost and Found Productions. He played Harry in the 2014-15 North American tour of *Flashdance the Musical*. TV credits include *Chicago PD* and *Chicago Fire*. He is a cabaret performer when time permits and is represented by Gray Talent Group. For my mentors, family, and amazing supportive friends. Twitter: [mkcabaret](https://twitter.com/mkcabaret)



**Princess Isis Z. Lang**

(Jackie Thibodeaux) makes her debut with Firebrand Theatre's *Caroline, or Change*. Professional credits: *Billy Elliot the Musical*

(Porchlight Music Theatre). *Far From Heaven* (Porchlight Music Theater) and *Billy Elliot the Musical* (Drury Lane). Educational Institution credits include: *All Shook Up* and *The Tempest* (Chicago Academy for the Arts); *In The Heights* (principal dancer), *Westside Story* (the Sharks girls), *The Music Man* (mayor's daughter) and *The Nutcracker* (advanced choir member), Christmas Concert in City Hall (Singer) at Providence St. Mel (PSM). Local credits: *Stairways to the Stars* (dancer) and *Books' Alive* (Mean Jane) at Maywood Fine Arts; Joffrey Ballet (dancer). National credits: Carnegie Hall (DCINY~Distinguished Concerts Singers International), U.S.T.A. 2nd Place National Tumbling Champion and 3rd Place National Tumbling Champion at Elite Sports Complex. Princess is a proud member of The National Society of High School Scholars. She attends the Chicago Academy for the Arts where she has big dreams.



**Micheal Lovette** (Bus/Dryer) is excited to be making his Firebrand debut! You may have seen Micheal in *Footloose* (Wilmette Center for the Arts) or

in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Paramount Theatre). Micheal would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support!



**Alejandro Medina**

(Noah Gellman) is thrilled to be working with Firebrand! This past spring, you may have seen Alex as C.J. in the world premiere

musical of *Last Stop on Market Street* (Chicago Children's Theater) or as Tall Boy in *Billy Elliot the Musical* (Porchlight Music Theater). Alex has also done numerous shows with the nationally award winning Bravo! and Ovation Performing Arts Academies in Oak Park. Last January, Alex performed the role of Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Ovation Academy) which earned him an Allstar Award at the iTheatrics Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta. Alex has also had the honor of being selected twice to record the choreography DVDs for "Mary Poppins, Jr." and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr." with iTheatrics for Music Theater International. Alex enjoys playing viola, doing math and hanging out with his friends or his dogs. He is a 6th grader in Oak Park, Illinois where he is an honor student. Alex would like to thank his parents, sisters, extended family and his teachers at Bravo! and Ovation for their encouragement and support!



**Blair Robertson** (Rose

Gellman): Chicago credits include *Company* (Writers Theatre), *My Children! My Africa!* and two seasons of *Snow Queen*

(Victory Gardens Theater), *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre), *Seussical* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *McMeekin Finds Out* and *High Fidelity* (Route 66 Theatre Company), *Kiss Me Kate* and *The Romeo and Julliet Story* (Notre Dame Summer Shakespeare Festival), Mahal (Baliwick Chicago), and *The Arsonists* (Strawdog Theatre Company). Regional credits: *The Games Afoot* (The New Theatre,

Kansas City). Film: Contagion. Blair is married to Chicago actor, Jürgen Hooper, they have two children.



**Jonathan Schwart** (Stuart Gellman) makes his Firebrand debut. Recent Chicago credits include: *Grand Hotel*, *Bonnie & Clyde* (Kokandy), *Ragtime*

(Griffin; Non-Equity Jeff Award for Best Ensemble), *Urinetown* (BoHo), Porchlight Revisits: *Woman of the Year*, *Far From Heaven* (Porchlight), *The Nutcracker* (Marriott), *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (Lifeline), and *The Wedding Gift*, a staged concert-reading directed by Jane Drake Brody. Jonathan is a graduate of the ACADEMY at Black Box Acting and the Second City Music Program, and is a voice student of Matthew Ellenwood. He holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin (BBA Finance, BA Economics) and the University of Chicago (Master of Public Policy). Many thanks to Lili-Anne, Andra, and Harmony for the opportunity to work on this beautiful show with this fantastic cast and theater company. As always, Jonathan dedicates his work to Mom.



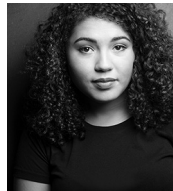
**Lyric K. Sims** (Joe Thibodeaux) is an ambitious inspiring child entertainer. She began acting at the tender age of 3, and thus far has appeared

in more than half a dozen television commercials and voice-overs. Her most notable role to date was in her theatre debut as, Katie Yates in *Six Corners* (American Blues Theatre). Lyric is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and Paonessa Talent. In her pastime she enjoys singing, dancing, playing dress-up with her dolls, and swimming.



**Tyler Symone** (Moon/Washer) is ecstatic to be a part of this production and to be back at Firebrand after appearing last season in *9 to 5 The Musical*.

She is originally from Shelby Township Michigan and is currently a Senior in Columbia College Chicago's BFA Musical Theatre Performance program. Regional and Chicago credits include *Annie*, *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *The Full Monty* (Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater), *A New Brain* (Theo Ubique), Porchlight revisits *They're Playing Our Song* and *Little Me* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *High Fidelity* (Refuge Theatre Project), and *Tonya and Nancy the Rock Opera* (Underscore Theatre Company). [Tylersymone.com](http://Tylersymone.com)



**Emma Sipora Tyler** (Radio 2) is currently a senior at the Chicago College of Performing Arts where she is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. Hailing

originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, *Caroline, Or Change* marks her Chicago debut and she is so thankful for the opportunity to share this incredible story alongside such a brilliant cast and crew. Emma now calls Chicago home (although she'll always root for the Timberwolves over the Bulls) and cannot wait to see what lies in store for her senior year and beyond. A huge thank you to all of the wonderful teachers/mentors she has had throughout her life for guiding and inspiring her. And finally, a shout out to her amazing family--and friends that feel like family--for their constant love and support; I love you all ever so.

**Lili-Anne Brown** (Director) is a native Chicagoan, who works as a director, actor and educator, both locally and regionally.



She is the former artistic director of Bailiwick Chicago, where she directed *Dessa Rose* (Jeff Award), *Passing Strange* (BTA Award and Jeff nomination for Best Director of a Musical), *See What I Wanna See* (Steppenwolf Theatre Garage Rep) and the world premiere of *Princess Mary Demands Your Attention* by Aaron Holland. Other directing credits include *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (American Blues Theater), *Tilikum* by Kristiana Rae Colón (world premiere, Sideshow Theatre), Ike Holter's *The Wolf at the End of the Block* (16 th Street Theatre), *Lottery Day* (Goodman Theatre New Stages Festival), *Marie Christine* (BoHo Theatre), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Metropolis Performing Arts), *The Wiz* (Kokandy Productions), *Xanadu* (American Theatre Company), *Jabari Dreams of Freedom* by Nambi E. Kelley (world premiere, Chicago Children's Theatre), *American Idiot* (Northwestern University); the national tour of *Jesus Snatched My Edges*; and *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hairspray*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Timber Lake Playhouse). She is a member of SDC, SAG-AFTRA, and a graduate of Northwestern University.

**Giselle Castro** (Sound Operator) - Chicago native & Tribeca College alumna. Excited to be back to the Den Theatre! From shadowing stage techs at Warped Tour to studio recording and working musicals, I credit my parents, Elia & Jose, for supporting my wild dreams. My brother and my sisters are my all. Special thanks to all the people who gave me a shot: Yuri, Robb Jibson, Jason, Miles, Hudson, Heather L, Kevin L, & Sammy. [gisellechicago.com](http://gisellechicago.com)

**Victoria Deiorio** (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be working with Firebrand again after designing *Lizzie: A Musical!* Off-Broadway Productions: *Nine Circles* (Sheen Center), *A Christmas Carol* (St. Clement's Theatre), *Two Point Oh* ( 59E59th

St.), *Cassie's Chimera* (Joe's Pub, The Public Theatre), *The Bluest Eye* (Steppenwolf Theatre (The Duke Theatre), *Ophelia* (NYC Fringe Festival), and *Arnie the Doughnut* (The Pearl - NYMTF). Productions with: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Long Wharf Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Writers' Theatre, American Players Theatre, CATF, Hartford Stage, Center Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Indiana Repertory, Geva Theatre, and many other theaters in Chicago and nationally. Victoria has 13 Jeff nominations and 7 Awards, as well as 2 After Dark Awards and a SALT Award. She is the head of Sound Design for The Theatre School at Depaul University.

**Brigitte Ditmars** (Associate Director/ Choreographer) is a Jeff award winning choreographer and director. Previous choreography credits include *Cinderella* (Birmingham Children's Theatre), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Metropolis Center for the Performing Arts), *Xanadu* (American Theatre Company), *The Producers* (Mercury Theatre Chicago), *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Theater Wit), *Reefer Madness* (Circle Theatre) *Poseidon! An Upside-Down Musical* (Hell In a Handbag Productions); Directing credits include *School House Rock Live!* (Birmingham Children's Theatre); *Bewildered* (Hell in a Handbag Productions); *Rock of Ages* (Timber Lake Playhouse).

**Kirby Gibson** (Assistant Stage Manager, Understudy Radio 2, Radio 3) is delighted to be part of her first Firebrand production. While primarily a performer, Kirby likes to consider herself a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to making theater. Most recently, she ASMed Sideshow Theatre Company's production of *Tilikum*, performed in *Musical Therapy* at The Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, and understudied in The Factory Theater's *The Next Big Thing*. Special thanks and love to Scott and her parents.

**Kotryna Hilko** (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be working with Firebrand Theatre for the first time! Chicago credits include: *The Room* and *The Haven Place* (A Red Orchid Theatre), *Byhalia, Mississippi* (Definition Theatre Co./New Colony), *Death of a Salesman*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Our Town*, and *Surley Goodness and Mercy* (Redtwist Theatre), *The Silence that Follows* and *The Little Match Girl Passion* (Facility), along with others.

**Lauren Katz** (Assistant Dramaturg): Lauren is a freelance director, dramaturg, and teaching artist. Recent Chicago projects include: *Indecent* (Victory Gardens), *Subjective is Beauty* (Prop Thtr), *The Crucible* and *Hir* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Bull in a China Shop*, *Significant Other* and *Bright Half Life* (Theater Wit/About Face Theatre), and *Apartment 3a* (Windy City Playhouse). Lauren served as the 2016/2017 Artistic Apprentice at Steppenwolf Theatre, and is currently a fellow in the 2018/2019 Victory Gardens Directors Inclusion Initiative.

**Lauren Nichols** (Scenic Design) is a Chicago native freelance designer who also works full time as a studio assistant building scale models. Recent design credits include *The Pajama Game* (Highland Park Players), *Surely, Goodness, and Mercy* (Redtwist), and also children's musicals *Yo Vikings!* and *Elephant and Piggie* (Northbrook). Upcoming projects include *Follies* (Harper College), *Scientific Method* (Rivendell) and *Ghosts* (Redtwist). Prior to her graduate studies she was a local scenic artist for 5 years. MFA Northwestern. [Laurenangedesigns.com](http://Laurenangedesigns.com)

**Abigail Reed** (Technical Director) is a Technical Director and Scenic Designer in the Chicagoland area. Abigail attended Oberlin College ('15) with a degree in Scenic Design. Recent credits include *A New Brain* (Theo Ubique) *The Ben Hecht Show* (Grippio Stage Co.) *Pippin* (Desert Foothills Theater, Arizona). Abigail designs

and builds escape rooms for Mobile Room Escape and works in the scenic department for several theaters, most often including Writer's Theater in Glencoe and The House Theatre of Chicago.

**Fatima Sowe** (Dramaturg) is a Chicago-based educator from Ithaca, NY. Past assistant dramaturgy work includes *The Scottsboro Boys* (Porchlight Theater) and *Paradise Blue* (Timeline Theatre Company). Fatima currently serves as a teaching artist at the Steppenwolf Theatre Company and received her B.A. In Art & Architectural History from Colgate University. She'd like to thank fellow dramaturgs Regina Victor and Jared Bellot, without whom this opportunity would not be possible.

**Richie Vavrina** (Master Electrician) This is Richie's third production with Firebrand, having been Master Electrician for both *Lizzie* and *9 to 5 The Musical* last season. His work as a lighting designer has been seen all over the Chicagoland area, most recently with Interobang Theatre Project's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* and *Grace*. He travels the country doing live events and loves returning home to work on engaging theatre.

**Andra Velis Simon** (Music Director) is the Resident Music Director for Firebrand, where she music directed *LIZZIE* and *9 to 5 The Musical* for their inaugural season. Her work as a music director, adapter, arranger and pianist has been seen regionally at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, A.R.T. in Cambridge, Brooklyn Academy of Music, NYU's Skirball Center, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Pasadena Playhouse, Berkeley Rep and Olney Theatre in Maryland. In Chicago, she has worked with The Goodman Theatre, The Hypocrites, Chicago Children's Theatre, Theater Wit, and many others. In addition, Andra has taught musical theatre performance at Columbia College Chicago since 2008. Upcoming

## BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

projects include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* at Porchlight and *Next to Normal* at Writers Theatre. Special thanks as always to Jamie. [www.AndraVS.com](http://www.AndraVS.com)

**JC Widman** (Stage Manager) JC is thrilled to be back with Firebrand, after stage managing *9 to 5 The Musical* earlier this year. Also this year she stage managed Stage Left's *Insurrection: Holding History* and Cirle Theatre's *The View Upstairs*. JC has also worked with BoHo, Neo-Futurist, Refuge Theater, Chicago Children's Theater, Underscore Theatre, Hell In A Handbag, The Hypocrites, The Ruffians, Kokandy Productions and the Apollo Theater. She is thankful for support of her family and friends, and to Lili-Anne, Andra, and Harmony who have been great mentors and friends.

**Cat Wilson** (Lighting Design) is a Chicago-based lighting designer. She has recently worked with companies such as Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, TimeLine Theatre, 16th Street Theater, Joffrey Ballet Academy, Chicago Children's Theatre, Kokandy Productions, Irish Theatre of Chicago, The Greenhouse Theater, Jackalope Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions, and many others around the country. She received her MFA in lighting design from Carnegie Mellon University, and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. [www.catwilsondesigns.com](http://www.catwilsondesigns.com)

## SEASON SPONSORS

**Mona and Michael Heath** are avid fans and supporters of Chicago theatre, especially in intimate storefront spaces. They have worked with a number of Chicago theatre companies as production sponsors, season sponsors, and co-producers. Mona and Michael were production sponsors for both *Lizzie* and *9 to 5* in Firebrand's inaugural season, and are pleased to serve as season sponsors for Firebrand's second season. Other notable projects include the Heath Main Stage at the Den Theatre and the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium's Accessible Equipment Loan Program. In 2017 the Heaths received the annual Tribute Award from the League of Chicago Theatres. For more information, see [www.heathfund.org](http://www.heathfund.org).

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# FIREBRAND theatre

Firebrand Theatre is the world's first equity feminist musical theatre company committed to employing and empowering women on and off the stage. Based in the vibrant city of Chicago, Firebrand Theatre's productions will expand the traditional roles of women in musical theatre by reimagining classics, producing unknown gems, and commissioning new works. Firebrand is a 501(c)(3) Equity theatre.

## **Firebrand Vow**

- We vow that there will always be as many women on stage as men.
  - We vow to employ women behind the scenes in every aspect of theatre, and particularly in leadership roles.
- We vow to program shows that showcase and empower women from many different walks of life.
- We vow to do this in a safe, creative, and collaborative environment.

## **Company members**

**Artistic Director:** Harmony France

**Advisory Board:** Lili-Anne Brown, Emjoy Gavino,  
Kate Garassino, Amber Mak, Danni Smith

**Company Members:** Kasey Alfonso, Sydney Charles, Heather Clark,  
Adelina Feldman-Schultz, Tyler Franklin, Amanda Horvath, Jon Martinez,  
Eric Martin, Amelia Jo Parish and Andra Velis Simon



TimeLine Theatre Company, recipient of the prestigious 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, was founded in April 1997 with a mission to present stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues. To date over 21 seasons, TimeLine has presented 75 productions, including 10 world premieres and 33 Chicago premieres, and launched the Living History Education Program, now in its 12th year of bringing the company's mission to life for students in Chicago Public Schools. Recipient of the Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence and the Richard Goodman Strategic Planning Award from the Association for Strategic Planning, TimeLine has received 54 Jeff Awards, including an award for Outstanding Production 11 times. The company is led by Artistic Director PJ Powers, Managing Director Elizabeth K. Auman, and Board President Eileen LaCario.

TimeLine's 2018-19 season includes *A SHAYNA MAIDEL* by Barbara Lebow (now playing at TimeLine's home at 615 W. Wellington Avenue in Chicago), *MASTER CLASS* by Terrence McNally (starting October 19 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Avenue in Chicago), *CARDBOARD PIANO* by Hansol Jung, and *TOO HEAVY FOR YOUR POCKET* by Jiréh Breon Holder. Learn more at [timelinetheatre.com](http://timelinetheatre.com).