



Lyric Theatre @ Illinois presents

CARNAVAL!

Michael Tilley, artistic director/conductor

Julie Jordan Gunn, producer

Lara Brooks, stage director

Alex Tecza and Kato Lindholm, choreographers

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Lobby Party, 6pm
Lobby and Foellinger
Great Hall Foyer

Concert, 7:30pm
Foellinger
Great Hall

Dance Party,
immediately following
the performance, Lobby



THE ACT OF GIVING

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Central Illinois Youth Chorus
Winners, Carnaval!*

*Kids Singing Competition
Jim Pugh, Larry Gray,
and Ricardo Flores
Michaels' Catering*

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WELCOME

Dear Friends of Lyric Theatre,

Welcome to a year of storytelling and celebration! Last semester, *Lyric Under the Stars* came home to campus on a gorgeous September weekend to inspire home audiences and alumni gathered from all over the country. The street urchin Anya likewise sang of “Home, Love, Family” in her quest to remember if she really might be the Princess *Anastasia*.

Carnaval! 2026 celebrates the festive music and dance of Latin America, while revelers of all ages play games, drink, dance, and enjoy delicious treats. *Make Me a Song* will pay tribute to the late songwriter William Finn. Finally, longing for home and nostalgia for childhood infuses Mark Adamo’s *Little Women*, the beloved story of the March sisters Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy.

We are so glad you are with us on this journey!

Yours,

Nathan and Julie Gunn,
Directors of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois

PROGRAM

Lyric Theatre @ Illinois
presents

CARNAVAL!

This evening's program is presented without an intermission.

LA VIDA ES UN CARNAVAL

(Victor Daniel/Celia Cruz)

Marley Lammers, Paige Greve, and Company

MI BUENOS AIRES QUERIDO

(Carlos Gardel/Alfredo le Pera)

Dahlia Medvinsky

MI DOLOR

(Carlos Marcucci/Manuel Meaños)

Julia Tejada and Joshua De La Cruz

CACAREANDO

(Antonio and Gerónimo Sureda)

Zoe Ball and Children

ALMA DE BOHEMIO

(Roberto Firpo/Juan Andrés Caruso)

Hunter Merriman and Sarah Navy

MORIRÓ EN BUENOS AIRES

(Astor Piazzolla/Milva)

Isabella Dippel

YO SOY MARIA

from *Maria de Buenos Aires*

(Astor Piazzolla/Horacio Ferrer)

Lily Borkowicz

MAMBO ITALIANO

(Bob Merrill)

Maija Flannery, Ellie Kollmeyer, and Company

QUANDO QUANDO QUANDO

(Tony Renis/Alberto Testa)

Erin Barker, Margot Burm, and Lukas Nederloe

MAMBO #5

(Pérez Prado)

Company

VIVO PER LEI

(Gatto Panceri/Valerio Zelli)

Paige Greve and Elijah Yang

CINEMA PARADISO (SE)

(Ennio and Andrea Morricone)

Yoo Jin Jung

ALFONSINA Y EL MAR

(Ariel Ramirez/Félix Luna)

Stella Catalano

MAMMA, SON TANTO FELICE

(Cesare Andreae Bixio/Bixio Cherubini)

Marley Lammers

MATTINATA

(Ruggero Leoncavallo)

Sophia Katsma and Audrey Brammer

'A VUCHELLA

(Paolo Tosti)

*Emily Vose, Ginny Gibbs, Mina Kostic, Alexa Lis,
Eleanor Stanton, Lillian Tremelling, Maggie McCabe,
and Male Ensemble*

FUNICULI, FUNICULA

(Luigi Denza/Peppina Turco)

Company and Children

THAT'S AMORE

(Harry Warren/Jack Brooks)

Addi Barclay, Children, and Company

NEL BLU, DIPINTO DI BLU (VOLARE)

(Domenico Modugno/Franco Miliacci)

Lukas Nederloe and Lila Dettelback

SWAY

(Luis Demetrio/Norman Gimbel)

Addi Barclay, Lin Rose Gilbertz, and Company

JUST A GIGOLO

(Leonello Casucci/Julius Brammer,

English lyrics by Irving Caesar)

I AIN'T GOT NOBODY

(Spencer Williams/Robert A Graham)

Christian Diaz, Ruby Amthor, and Ensemble

CON TE PARTIRÓ

(Francesco Sartori/Lucio Quarantotto)

Whitley Smith, Joshua Knehans, and Company

*Arrangements and orchestrations by
David Waldman, Saffion Chung, Aaron Ames,
and Michael Tilley.*

*Lyric Theatre @ Illinois is a proud part of the
University of Illinois School of Music
(Linda R. Moorhouse, director).*

CAST

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michael Tilley

SINGERS

Ruby Amthor
Zoe Ball
Addi Barclay
Erin Barker
Lily Borkowicz
Audrey Brammer
Margot Burm
Stella Catalano
Joshua de la Cruz
Lila Dettelback
Christian Diaz
Isabella Dippel
Maija Flannery
Ginny Gibbs

Lin Rose Gilbertz
Paige Greve
Yoo Jin Jung
Sophia Katsma
Joshua Knehans
Ellie Kollmeyer
Mina Kostic
Marley Lammers
Alexa Lis
Maggie McCabe
Dahlia Medvinsky
Hunter Merriman
Sarah Navy
Lukas Nederloe
Whitley Smith
Eleanor Stanton
Julia Tejada
Lillian Tremelling
Emily Vose
Elijah Yang

CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH CHORUS

Grace Batsie
Julia Crow
Meera Dande
Fiona Daugherty
Declan Nystrom Farkas
Margot McKnight
Pippa McKnight
Yuna Nagashima
Ozzie Pollard
Jack VanSteenhuysen

ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR

Michael Tilley

VIOLIN

Amanda Ramey
Kiersten Scherer
Jace Kim

MANDOLIN

Jace Kim
*Instrument on loan
from Rob Sweedler*

VIOLA

Andreas Gehrt-Ruiz

CELLO

Maxwell Schultz

DOUBLE BASS

Xin Xu

FLUTE/TENOR SAXOPHONE

Kavi Naidu

TRUMPET

Kevin Kierspe
Jack Obrebski

FLUGELHORN

Jack Obrebski

TROMBONE

Matthew Dixon

DRUM SET

Samuel Carroll

PERCUSSION/ LATIN INSTRUMENTS

Ricardo Flores

BANDONEON

Joe Grohens

ACCORDION

Robert Sweedler

GUITAR ACOUSTIC/ ELECTRIC

Guido Sanchez-Portuguez

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Saffion Chung

CONTRACTOR

Barbara S. Hedlund

PRODUCTION CREDITS

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/
CONDUCTOR**

Michael Tilley

PRODUCER

Julie Jordan Gunn

STAGE DIRECTOR

Lara Brooks

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Alex Tecza
Kato Lindholm

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Camron Stockley

STAGE MANAGER

Allyson Imig

LANGUAGE COACH

Michael Tilley

REHEARSAL PIANISTS

Saffion Chung
Andrey Ivanov

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Lydia Pryzbylski-Munden

PROPERTIES MANAGER

Binky Donnelly

HAIR AND MAKEUP SUPERVISOR

Paige Stewart-Rankins

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Connor Walters

CIYC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Andrea Solya

CIYC CONDUCTORS

Ann Marie Morrisette
Andrey Ivanov



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PROGRAM NOTES

Tonight's *Carnaval!* celebrates musics born in the margins of societies enervated by fluxes of migration that gradually became national symbols of pride. What started as an exploration of the musical influences of Astor Piazzolla, an Argentine with Italian heritage who grew up in the East Village of Manhattan, revealed even greater detail about our interdependent world. When William Blake opined that brothels were built with the bricks of religion, he might well have been speaking of the forces celebrated in Carnival, where excess is indulged in preparation for Lenten self-sacrifice. Argentine tango was also born in the docks and brothels of Buenos Aires, where the ubiquitous habañera rhythm of Cuba (simultaneously inspiring music like George Bizet's *Carmen* in Paris) was merging with the indigenous courtship dance of the *milonga*, the West African *candombe*, and the haunting laments of the embattled *gaucho* cowboys.

Just as with the swing rhythms cultivated in African American dance halls and theatres, where newly-arrived Italian immigrants found welcome on their arrival to New York, Parisian audiences were the first to celebrate artists like Carlos Gardel and Francisco Canaro, who put a more acceptable face on the culturally dangerous tango, still held at arm's length back home in Argentina. Gardel met the 15-year-old Piazzolla in New York (Piazzolla was even an extra in a Gardel film) and offered him a position playing bandoneón in his orchestra, which Piazzolla's father forbade due to his youth. Gardel and his entire band died tragically in an airplane crash on tour later that same year. The tangos featured here demonstrate some of the fluidity and evolution of the style from the *kilombo* to the dance hall to the concert and operatic stage.

We also celebrate the music that the Italian immigrants to the Americas left behind. The Kingdom of Naples was also a cauldron of cultures: established as a Greek colony, ruled in turn by the Romans, the Angevin dynasty, the Spanish Habsburgs and Bourbons, Napoleon's brother, and finally brought into the new Italy by Giuseppe Garibaldi (also vital to South American wars of Independence in Brazil and Uruguay). It would be inaccurate to describe the Neapolitan songs presented here as "folk" music; they are simply songs by composers from Napoli. Francesco Tosti, remembered for his endearing songs, emigrated from Naples to London, where he became singing master to the royal family in 1880 and was England's most popular composer of song. Leoncavallo is best known for his *verismo* opera *I Pagliacci*, and its famous tenor aria "Vesti la giubba." Also included is "Alfonsina y el mar," a remembrance of Argentine poet Alfonsina Storni in the idiom of the *zamba*, a slow folk dance in triple meter of Indigenous and African origin. Ennio Morricone, famous especially for his collaborations with Sergio Leone, has scored more than 400 films and television projects, as well as an opera, a mass, symphonies, and 15 piano concerti.

It was the Neapolitan singer Enrico Caruso who paved the way for the integration of the Italian immigrant community to New York, and the influence of his powerful voice resonated through his crooning admirers Frank Sinatra and Dino Paul Crocetti (aka Dean Martin). Louis Prima was born to Sicilian immigrants in New Orleans less than 20 years after 11 Italians died in the nation's largest mass lynching in history. In New Orleans in particular, Italian and Black communities shared their cultures in restaurants and nightclubs, where Louis

developed his love for swing and jazz. He also proudly embraced the sounds of his Sicilian heritage in songs like “Buona Sera, Signorina,” paving the way for other proud immigrant artists. In New York and even back in Italy, the swing influence merged with the mambo of musicians like Pérez Prado and Desi Arnaz and the bossa nova of Brazil to produce hits like “Sway” and “Quando Quando Quando.”

We hope you enjoy this evening of music that reminds us all of the luminous and mysterious web that binds us together.

—**Michael Tilley**

PROFILES

Lyric Theatre @ Illinois acknowledges with gratitude the cooperation of the voice and accompanying faculties of the University of Illinois School of Music in supporting the talented students in its productions.



RUBY AMTHOR

Amthor is pursuing a Bachelor of Musical Arts in lyric theatre with a minor in leadership studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Originally from Armada, Michigan, she has performed in numerous productions, including *Bright Star* (Alice Murphy), *Zombie Prom* (Miss Delilah Strict), and *Lucky Stiff* (Rita La Porta). At the U of I, Amthor is ecstatic to continue expanding her experience in both performance and collaborative theatre-making. Beyond the stage, she is passionate about leadership development and fostering community through the arts. In her free time, Amthor enjoys creating and recording music in her at-home studio, and spending time exploring new creative projects.



ZOE BALL

Ball is a freshman from Des Moines, Iowa, studying voice performance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She performed in *Anastasia* at Krannert Center in the offstage chorus, and Katherine in *Newsies* and Fiona in *Shrek* at Dowling Catholic High School. She is thrilled to continue her performing arts education and to share her music with you at the U of I!



ADDI BARCLAY

Barclay is a sophomore in the Lyric Theatre Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying with Dawn Harris and Alonza Lawrence. She has appeared in *Carnaval! 2025* and *Lyric Under the Stars*. Some of her favorite previous roles include Deloris Van Cartier (*Sister Act*), Carrie White (*Carrie*), and the Witch (*Into the Woods*). She is a proud member of the Women's Glee Club. Barclay is incredibly grateful to Professor Harris, Dr. Lawrence, and the entire Lyric Theatre @ Illinois faculty for their guidance, support, and dedication to student artistry. She feels honored to be part of such a dynamic and inspiring program, and looks forward to continuing to grow as a performer and collaborator.



ERIN BARKER

Barker, a freshman from Chicago Ridge, Illinois, recently performed with the offstage chorus in *Anastasia* at Krannert Center. She has appeared in numerous educational theatre productions at Harold L. Richards High School, including *Mamma Mia!* (Donna Sheridan), *Anastasia* (Lily Malevsky-Malevitch), *Abigail/1702* (*Abigail Williams*), and *Clue: On Stage* (Miss Scarlett). Her community theatre credits include *The Addams Family* (Morticia Addams), *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Maria), *Shrek* (Pinocchio), and *James and the Giant Peach* (Ladybug) at Potters House

Oak Lawn and Oak View Center. Barker sings with the University Chorus at Illinois, is a 2024 ILMEA All-State Choir member, and a two-time IHSA State Finalist in Drama and Speech. She is passionate about sharing her art and looks forward to continuing her artistic journey at the University of Illinois.



LILY BORKOWICZ

Borkowicz, from La Grange Park, Illinois, is a second-year BMA candidate with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois (LTI), studying with Scott MacLeod. Her most recent credits include LTI's *Anastasia* (Countess

Lily Malevsky-Malevitch) and *Carnaval! 2025*, and Illini Student Musicals' *Heathers* (Ms. Fleming). Borkowicz thanks all those involved in this show from the very bottom of her heart for their incredible work and constant support.



AUDREY BRAMMER

Brammer, from North Carolina, is a second-year BMA candidate in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her most recent credits with the Lyric Theatre Program include

Under the Stars (Featured Performer) and *Carnaval! 2025* (Ensemble). Additional credits include *The Prom* (Dee Dee Allen) and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Title Role) with University of North Carolina Playmakers Repertory Company. Brammer thanks her professors for their wisdom and encouragement, and her parents for being a constant pillar of support and love.



MARGOT BURM

Burm is a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign pursuing a BMA in the Lyric Theatre Program with which she also appeared in *Under the Stars* (Featured Soloist) and

Carnaval! 2025. Now a student of Scott MacLeod, Burm has been performing onstage for over 10 years. Some of her favorite credits include *Little Women* (Jo March), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Golde), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods) at Edge of the Wood Theatre. She was seen in Loyola Academy's production of *Mamma Mia!* (Donna Sheridan) and *Children of Eden* (Snake). She was also a student at the National High School Institute (The Cherubs) at Northwestern University. Burm performs with Illini Student Musicals where she was seen as Missy Hart in *9 to 5*. She thanks her friends and family for their love and support.



STELLA CATALANO

Catalano, a sophomore in the Lyric Theatre Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, formed her love of musical theatre in her home town of Castle Rock, Colorado, where she appeared in *9*

to 5 (Missy), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Gloria), *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Irena), and many more productions at Rock Canyon High School. Her previous Lyric Theatre @ Illinois credits include *Under the Stars 2025* and *Carnaval! 2024*. In her free time, Catalano likes to read, hike, play guitar, and hang out with her mom. She thanks her family and friends for their love and support.



JOSHUA DE LA CRUZ

De La Cruz is a second-year lyric theatre student who hails from North Riverside, Illinois. He made his collegiate debut in *Carnaval! 2025* and appeared this season in *Under the Stars*, singing the role of Nathan

Detroit in the duet “Sue Me.” De La Cruz’s high school performance experiences include *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely Johnson) and *Grease* (Doody). A proud member of the Varsity Men’s Glee Club at Illinois, he also enjoys singing for his church’s worship team. He is excited to continue his academic journey in this supportive musical community and to connect with audiences through performance.

LILA DETTELBACK



Dettelback is a junior mezzo-soprano studying vocal performance at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Her previous Lyric Theatre @ Illinois roles have included *Speranza* in *L’Orfeo*, the ensemble in 2024’s *An Evening*

with *Ricky Ian Gordon*, *Carnaval! 2023* and 2025, and *Under the Stars 2025*.

CHRISTIAN DIAZ



Diaz, from Chicago, is a sophomore studying vocal performance under the tutelage of Dawn Harris. Diaz is thrilled to be working with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois once again in *Carnaval!* This past year, he was

honored to receive the Voice @ Illinois Achievement Award. Diaz’s recent credits include Monteverdi’s *L’Orfeo* (Chorus), *Under the Stars* (Soloist), and Illini Student Musicals’ *Cabaret* (Max/Kit Kat Ensemble). Apart from his work with LTI, Diaz is a part of the University of Illinois Meredith Chamber Singers and the Illini Student Musical’s DEIA Committee, for which he serves as Internal Subcommittee Leader. He would like to thank the University of Illinois School of Music faculty for making this possible, as well as his family and friends for their continued support.

ISABELLA DIPPEL



Dippel, a soprano from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, studies voice with Dawn Harris. She transferred to the University of Illinois as a sophomore, and is so glad that her final show with Lyric Theatre

@ Illinois is this exciting event. Most recently, she lived a dream at the Forst Inn Arts Collective, appearing as Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*. Her past LTI credits include *L’Orfeo*, *Carnaval!*, *Under the Stars*, *Black Square*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Trial by Jury*. Dippel is a member of Meredith Chamber Singers at Illinois and also loves working with What You Will Theatre Company and Penny Dreadful Players. She thanks her family—both the one she was born into and the ones she’s found on campus. Enjoy the show!



MAIJA FLANNERY

Flannery, a sophomore pursuing a degree in lyric theatre with a minor in dance, is thrilled to be involved in this production at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign! She has been seen in Lyric Theatre

@ Illinois' *Anastasia* (Paulina/Ensemble), *Under the Stars* (Ensemble), and *Carnaval!* 2025 (Ensemble). Flannery studies voice with Lara Brooks and is grateful for the opportunity to perform alongside her peers under the direction of the incredible Lyric Theatre staff. As she pursues what she loves most, Flannery thanks her parents and sister for their endless love and support.



GINNY GIBBS

Gibbs is a first-year BMA lyric theatre student from Western Springs, Illinois. She has recently been a part of *Once Upon a Mattress* (Princess Winnifred) in La Grange, Illinois, and appeared

with Southeastern Summer Theatre Institute in *Sweet Charity* (Helene) in Hilton Head, South Carolina. At the University of Illinois, she is involved in University Treble Chorus. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis. As she appears in her first LTI production at Krannert Center, she thanks her family, friends, and fellow cast members for their support.



LIN ROSE GILBERTZ

Gilbertz is a sophomore pursuing a BMA with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. She is from Champaign, attending Centennial High School where she discovered her love for theatre. She has appeared as The Baker's Wife in

the International Lyric Academy's production of *Into the Woods*, Lilith in the Illinois High School Theater Festival's All State production of *She Kills Monsters* (2024), and Chris in Champaign Urbana Drama Maker's production of *Carrie the Musical* (2024). On campus, Gilbertz is involved with the University of Illinois Black Chorus, Illini Student Musicals as a member of their marketing committee, and the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She thanks her mom, family, friends, and mentors for their endless love and support. Always.



PAIGE GREVE

Greve, a student of Dawn Harris and Sarah Wigley and a lyric theatre major at the University of Illinois, has previously been seen in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois productions of *Under the Stars*, *Black Square*,

and two previous *Carnaval!* events. Other credits include Oberacker and Taylor's *Bandstand* (Julia) and their pilot production of *Ace* (Elizabeth); Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (Celia); and *Twelve Angry Men* (Foreman). These productions were performed under the direction of Rebeca Marianetti, Matthew Bourke, and John Forsythe at York Community High School. Greve thanks Lyric Theatre @ Illinois for many opportunities to perform, and her family and friends for their support!



YOO JIN JUNG

Jung is a second-year Artist Diploma student in vocal performance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying with Yvonne Redman. She holds a Master of Music in

vocal performance from the University of Louisville where she studied with Emily Albrink Katz and was inducted into the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honor society. Jung won first place at the Kentucky District NATS Competition, receiving the Gina Epifano Award for Best Overall Performance, and was a semifinalist in the National Auditions at the 2022 NATS 57th National Conference held in Chicago. She also won the Dr. T. Huang and Mary Huang Aria Competition, earning the opportunity to perform with the U of L Symphony Orchestra. This 2025-2026 academic year at the U of I, she holds a Lyric Theatre graduate assistantship. Jung's opera roles include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Adina in *The Elixir of Love* (University of Louisville Opera Theatre), and the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Keystone Opera). She also appeared as Marie in *La Fille du Régiment*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, and Lakmé in *Lakmé*. She was recently seen in Lyric Theatre's *Under the Stars*, singing the role of Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Passionate about performing diverse music, Jung strives to create meaningful moments on stage.



SOPHIA KATSMAS

(she/her)

Katsma, is a third-year lyric theatre major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A student of Nathan Gunn and Sarah Wigley, her credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *Under the Stars* (Soloist), *L'Orfeo* (Featured Dancer/Euridice Cover), *An Evening with Ricky Ian Gordon* (Soloist), and *Carnaval!* (Ensemble). She also appeared in Anna Compton's Director's Workshop scene from *Collective Rage* (Betty 3), Rachel Rizzuto's *Love Sucks* (Dancer, Vocalist, Guitarist), and Illini Student Musicals' *The Prom* (Ensemble). Prior to her studies at the University of Illinois, Katsma performed at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall after winning first place in American Protégé's Talent Competition. She is a James Scholar on the Dean's List and is the Undergraduate Student Representative for the Undergraduate Committee in the School of Music. She thanks her family, friends, and teachers for supporting her dreams.



JOSHUA KNEHANS

Knehans is a third-year vocal performance major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying with Nathan Gunn. His Lyric Theatre @ Illinois credits include *Carnaval!*, *Black Square*, *Under the Stars*, and *Oklahoma!*. He is thankful for all the faculty and friends in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, and is excited to continue making memories and learning.



ELLIE KOLLMMEYER

Kollmeyer, a second-year student in the Lyric Theatre Program studying with Scott MacLeod, has appeared in *Under the Stars 2024* and *Carnaval! 2025*. She also sings with the Women's Glee Club at the

University of Illinois. Kollmeyer grew up in Springfield, Missouri, where she first discovered her love for performing, appearing in many productions at Kickapoo High School. Among her credits are Ellie Blake in *Freaky Friday*, Raja in *Never Saw Another Butterfly*, and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. She thanks her family and friends for supporting her performance career.



MARLEY LAMMERS

Lammers, from Cleveland, Ohio, is a senior lyric theatre major studying with Sarah Wigley and Lara Brooks. Her Lyric Theatre @ Illinois credits include *Anastasia* (Tatiana Romanov/Ensemble), *Oklahoma!*

(Ellen/Laurey Cover), *L'Orfeo* (Ensemble/Prosperpina Cover), *Under the Stars* (Soloist), and *Carnaval!* (Soloist). Other favorite roles include Olive in *Spelling Bee* and Molly in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Lammers' studies include minors in wildlife conservation, dance, and film. She writes environmental songs which she performs bi-weekly at the Illini Union. Lammers studies Meisner Technique at the Houde School of Acting; is signed with The Talent Group in Cleveland; and produces, casts, and acts in independent films. She received the Producer's Choice Award and was nominated for Best Supporting Actress at the Cleveland

48 Hour Film Festival. Lammers thanks her family for their endless love and support of her many creative endeavors. She is thrilled to be a part of this production!



ALEXA LIS

Lis, from Wauconda, Illinois, is a senior studying English at the University of Illinois. Though she is not a music major, she spends her time taking non-major voice lessons and participating in

performance ensembles in the School of Music. During her freshman year, Lis performed in the *Carnaval!* ensemble as well as the workshop performance of *MET: The Musical*. Having first performed at Krannert Center during the 2023 Illinois High School Theatre Festival, she is thrilled to appear on the Foellinger Great Hall stage during her final semester on campus.



MAGGIE MCCABE

McCabe is a freshman working toward a BM in vocal performance on the pre-law track at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Growing up locally, she performed at

Krannert Center in many performances with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Central Illinois Youth Chorus, and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. Highlights of these performances include *La Bohème* (2018), *Cellular Songs* with Meredith Monk (2022), and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (2023) as a soloist. In addition to her recent performances as Nina in *Sister Act* and Ruby in *May We All*, McCabe participated in the National

PROFILES

ACDA SSAA Honor Choir (2023), Illinois ACDA Honor Choir (2023), and Regional ACDA Honor Choir (2022, 2024). A member of the U of I Women's Glee Club, she is indebted to the voice and lyric theatre faculty who have created this professional, supportive, and artistic program for all students.



DAHLIA MEDVINSKY

(she/her)

Medvinsky is a third-year BMA student in the Lyric Theatre Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she studies voice with Yvonne Redman and Sarah Wigley. Her past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *Anastasia* (Tsarina Alexandra), *L'Orfeo* (Onstage Chorus), and *35MM: A Musical Exhibition* (Woman 2). She has also performed with the U of I Voice Area Opera in productions of *Don Giovanni* and *La Bohème*. She thanks the lyric theatre and voice faculty for their guidance, as well as her family and friends for their unwavering love and inspiration!



HUNTER MERRIMAN

Merriman, a baritone from Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a graduate student studying with Scott MacLeod at the University of Illinois after four years of voice studies at Colorado College. He has performed the role of Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and appeared as Horace Tabor (*The Ballad of Baby Doe*) and Escamillo (*Carmen*) in Opera Scenes as an undergraduate.



SARAH NAVY

Navy, of Houston, Texas, attended Lawrence University where she received a BM in voice performance studying with acclaimed countertenor John T. Holiday. In May 2024, Navy obtained an MM in voice performance, studying with Barbara Hill-Moore. Navy has performed the role of Bianca in *The Rape of Lucretia* (Benjamin Britten) and the title role in *Suor Angelica* (Puccini). After completing her studies with a Performance Diploma in voice in May 2025, Navy began doctoral studies in voice performance and literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Ollie Watts Davis. Navy enjoys singing with the U of I Black Chorus, teaching young singers, advocating for Black singers in opera, and leading worship in her church.



LUKAS NEDERLOE

Nederloe, a first-year master's student in performance literature at the University of Illinois, studies voice with Nathan Gunn. A baritone from Minneapolis, he received his bachelor's degree in music and vocal performance from Viterbo University where he studied under Daniel Johnson-Wilmot. His production credits at Viterbo University's Conservatory for the Performing Arts include Count Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Gus O'Neill (*Later the Same Evening*), and Samuel (*Pirates of Penzance*). Outside of music, Nederloe is an avid cyclist who values physical and mental fitness as integral to the work of an artist.



WHITLEY SMITH

Smith, a junior majoring in vocal performance, first studied with Sylvia Stone at the University of Illinois, and now with Nathan Gunn. The Palo Alto, California, native studied privately with Maureen

Chowning prior to beginning studies in Illinois. Smith is thrilled to join the music community at U of I and looks forward to growing—both musically and professionally—through the guidance of the outstanding faculty.



ELEANOR STANTON

Stanton, a soprano from Lancaster, Massachusetts, is a freshman studying vocal performance with Dawn Harris at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Her notable musical theatre roles

include Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* and Rosie in *Mamma Mia!* at Nashoba Regional High School, Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof* at The Hanover Theater Conservatory, and Ursula in *Bye Bye Birdie* at St. John's High School. She has sung in the Massachusetts Central District and All-State Choirs, and performed the national anthem for the Worcester Red Sox. Last year, she attended Boston Conservatory at Berklee's Vocal-Choral Intensive Summer Program. Stanton is passionate about singing, both classical and musical theatre, and is also a trained pianist. In her free time, she likes to go for runs, compose songs, and write articles for the online magazine *Her Campus* at Illinois. She thanks her parents for always supporting her dreams.



JULIA TEJADA

Tejada is a third-year lyric theatre major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her recent roles have included Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show* and Jessica in *Women Playing Hamlet*, both at

East Peoria's Illinois Central College where she studied prior to transferring to U of I. She also participated in community theatre in the Peoria area, performing as Carla in *In the Heights* (Peoria Players Theatre) and the dance ensemble in *Mary Poppins* at Cornstock Theatre.



LILLIAN TREMELLING

Tremelling is a freshman lyric theatre student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Racine, Wisconsin, native appeared as Sandy in *Grease*, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*,

and Donna in *Mamma Mia!* at William Horlick High School. When not onstage, she enjoys playing piano and learning about the tech world.



EMILY VOSE

Vose, an Orlando, Florida, native, continues her first year of studies at the University of Illinois this semester. As a student at Orlando's University High School, she appeared as Natalie/Ed in

All Shook Up, Betty Haynes in *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, Val in *A Chorus Line*, and Cinderella in *Disenchanted!*. Alongside singing, Vose enjoys dance, photography, sound design, and spending time with her friends.



ELIJAH YANG

Yang, from Aurora, Illinois, is a sophomore in the Lyric Theatre Program currently studying with Scott MacLeod. Yang's recent appearances were in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' *Anastasia* (Ensemble)

and *Under the Stars*. Some of his favorite roles include Justin in *21 Chump Street* and Racer in *Newsies*. Excited by whatever is in store for him in his future, he thanks his family, friends, colleagues and, most importantly, his professors for the great amount of love and support.



LARA BROOKS

Brooks has built a career that bridges musical theatre, opera, and contemporary voice pedagogy. Her directing credits span productions of *Anastasia* and *Carnaval!* 2025 with Lyric Theatre @

Illinois, *Anastasia* with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) All-State Musical Theatre Honor's Ensemble, as well as *Mean Girls*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Ruddigore*, *Patience*, *War Paint*, *Sweets by Kate*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, Disney's *Newsies*, and Harry Connick Jr.'s *The Happy Elf*. Her work with the Columbus, Ohio, theatre company CCT earned BroadwayWorld Regional Awards in 2022 and 2023 for Best Musical Direction and Orchestration for *Newsies* and *The Happy Elf*.

As a contemporary voice specialist, Brooks frequently presents workshops on flexible vocal technique and cross training. Her sessions, ranging from "Crossing Genres: A Classical Singer's Guide to Jazz" to "Healthy Belting Techniques for Classical Singers" and "Utilizing EVT for Healthy Jazz Voice Pedagogy," have been presented at the International Congress of Voice Teachers in Stockholm and Vienna, Estill World Voice Symposium, National Association of Teachers of Singing, National Opera Association, Jazz Education Network, Marquee Awards, MSVMA, Illinois Music Educators Conference, Kansas Music Education Association, and numerous universities and high schools across the country.

Brooks serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Voice and Lyric Theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is an Estill Mentor and Course

Instructor Candidate and was selected as a 2023 NATS Intern. Her professional affiliations include the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Jazz Education Network, Sigma Alpha Iota, Pi Kappa Lambda, National Opera Association, and National Society of Arts and Letters, where she serves as President for the Illinois Chapter. After earning her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and music education (cum laude) from Central Michigan University, Brooks continued her studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, earning a Master of Music in vocal performance and literature, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in jazz studies in voice.



JULIE JORDAN GUNN

Gunn's devotion to music has brought her accolades from around the world as a performer, producer, teacher, and advocate. Her work often supports and promotes emerging creative or performing artists. Trained as a pianist, she has performed on most of the world's most prestigious recital series with distinguished colleagues, but most importantly with her husband and artistic partner Nathan Gunn.

Co-Director of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Gunn produces numerous operas or musical theatre works each year at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and other regional venues. She enjoys producing larger celebrations—*Lyric Under the Stars* and *Carnaval!*—combining spectacular performances with festive hospitality. The Gunns' production company, Shot in the Dark Productions Inc., specializes in personalized musical and theatrical events. This season, Julie Gunn

looks forward to producing *I Hear America Singing*, a tribute to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

A faculty member at the University of Illinois School of Music, Gunn has given masterclasses at universities and young artists' programs all over the United States and Canada, and has served as a coach or conductor at many distinguished opera houses. She teaches courses in arts leadership, career preparation, and opera.

Gunn is an advocate for initiatives benefiting the arts and children's lives. She served as the Interim Director of the Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists' Program in 2022. She was appointed Rector of the Arts and Performing Arts of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois by Governor JB Pritzker. She served as the President of the Countryside School Board of Directors and is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children. She is the guest curator for performance at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

Julie Gunn attended Dartmouth College, majoring in economics, and received her masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois, where she has been awarded the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. She lives in Champaign, Illinois, with her husband Nathan, where they raised their five children.

PROFILES



MICHAEL TILLEY

Tilley serves as Musical Administrator for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, as well as teaching vocal coaching and accompanying majors. After receiving his master's degree in collaborative piano from

the University of Colorado-Boulder (also bachelor's degrees in piano and molecular biology), Professor Tilley was hired as Musical Director for Franc D'Ambrosio's national tours.

During the last decade, Tilley has served as the music director for concerts and shows in New York City and throughout the country. As a conductor, he has led ensembles from Central City Opera, Opera Colorado, Emerald City Opera, and Boulder Opera. He has been a featured performer with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and other regional orchestras, as well as with the Martha Graham Dance Company at the Vail International Dance Festival. His orchestrations and arrangements, from solo piano to full symphony to rock opera, have been heard across the country and abroad. He has also composed music for the stage and a feature length soundtrack. He plays, sings, and writes for the Argentine tango groups Extasis and Orquesta Tipica di Natural Tango. He is currently the Associate Music Director for The Four Phantoms in Concert.



ALLYSON IMIG

(Stage Manager, she/they)

Imig is a second-year student pursuing an MFA in stage management and production management. Her previous credits include *Joseph and the*

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Sunset Playhouse), *A Winter's Tale* (Illinois Theatre), *Age* (Dance at Illinois), *Oklahoma!* (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Outskirts Theatre Co.), and *Power, Passion, Precision* (Madison Ballet). Imig thanks her family and friends for their support and care packages.



KATO LINDHOLM

(Choreographer)

Lindholm is a former professional ballroom US National Finalist, World Finalist, and recipient of 2008 and 2009 Dancers Cup Tour Professional Couple of the

Year awards. Since retiring from competitions, he has collaborated with other artists and choreographed original works with Alex Tecza. Lindholm performed *Heart at Low Tide 2* by Rebecca Nettle-Fiol at the American Dance Guild Festival in New York City, co-choreographed and performed in the Lyric Theatre @ Illinois productions of *My Fair Lady* and *The Merry Widow*, and co-choreographed and performed in *Stay* with Alex Tecza at the Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival, among other venues. Lindholm is a fellow with the US Terpsichore Association and teaches students of all levels. He is the official coach of the Illini Dancesport team.



CAMRON STOCKLEY

(Lighting Designer)

Stockley is completing his final year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, pursuing a BFA in lighting design and technology. His Illinois Theatre credits include *The Royale* (Fly Rail Operator); *The Realness, Carnival!*, and *Oklahoma!* (Programmer/Board Operator); *Solace*–Senior Thesis Dance Concert, *Cloven III*, and *Studiodance 2024* (Lighting Designer); Theatre Studies New Works Project, *Studiodance 2025*, and *Plumas Negras* (Assistant Head Electrician). Stockley has been passionate about lighting design and technology since starting middle school, and Illinois Theatre has helped make his dreams achievable. In this last year, he is excited to sculpt and strengthen his skills, and continue to share new experiences at Illinois. Outside of lighting, Stockley is a largemouth bass angler and an avid Red Sox fan. He thanks his Mom, Dad, and Nana for getting him where he is today. He would also like to thank his girlfriend for being his better half and biggest supporter. ILL!



ALEX TECZA

(Choreographer)

Tecza spent over 30 years of his career as a competitive ballroom dancer and teacher. His professional achievements include titles of US National and World Finalist, two Dancers Cup Tour Couple of the Year awards, and over 30 wins in American Smooth, International Standard, and Showdance divisions. As a dancer and choreographer, Tecza appeared in several Dance at Illinois and Lyric Theatre @ Illinois productions, including *Dance at Illinois Downtown* at the Virginia Theatre, *My Fair Lady*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Carnaval!*. His collaborative works have been shown in venues such as Ruth Page Center for the Arts and Ailey Citigroup Theatre. Tecza often serves as a ballroom dance and partnering expert for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois productions. His choreographic credits for LTI include *Die Fledermaus*, *Black Square*, *Carnaval!*, and others. Aside from performing and choreographing, Tecza holds an MFA in dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is a certified Alexander Technique teacher. He teaches classes for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Illinois Wesleyan University, and maintains a private teaching practice in both Champaign-Urbana and northwest suburbs of Chicago.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH CHORUS

Enriching the lives of children since 1978, Central Illinois Youth Chorus (CIYC) provides choral music instruction, vocal training, and performance opportunities to youth in preschool through 12th grade. Based in Champaign-Urbana, the Chorus includes four choir levels and draws members from surrounding communities and counties. Members are taught sound vocal technique, musicianship, and performance etiquette while learning repertoire covering a diverse range of music, languages, and composers. CIYC's early education program also offers free, drop-in singalongs to singers too young for its performing choirs. CIYC choristers experience the joy, discipline, pride, and teamwork of high-quality choral singing.

CIYC presents annual winter and spring concerts, performs with area orchestras and choruses, hosts other children's choirs such as the American Boychoir, and sings at choral festivals and at community, corporate, and private events. Recent performance highlights include *Cellular Songs* with Meredith Monk, the Midwest premier of Stacey Garrop's *Terra Nostra*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, and regular collaborations with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra.

Under the artistic direction of Dr. Andrea Solya, the Chorus staff includes conductors Simon Tiffin, Ann Marie Morrisette, Nick Pierle, and Robin King; resident voice teacher Ingrid Kammin; and additional artistic and administrative staff. CIYC is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and also by individual and corporate donations.

For further information visit:

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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As a Land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

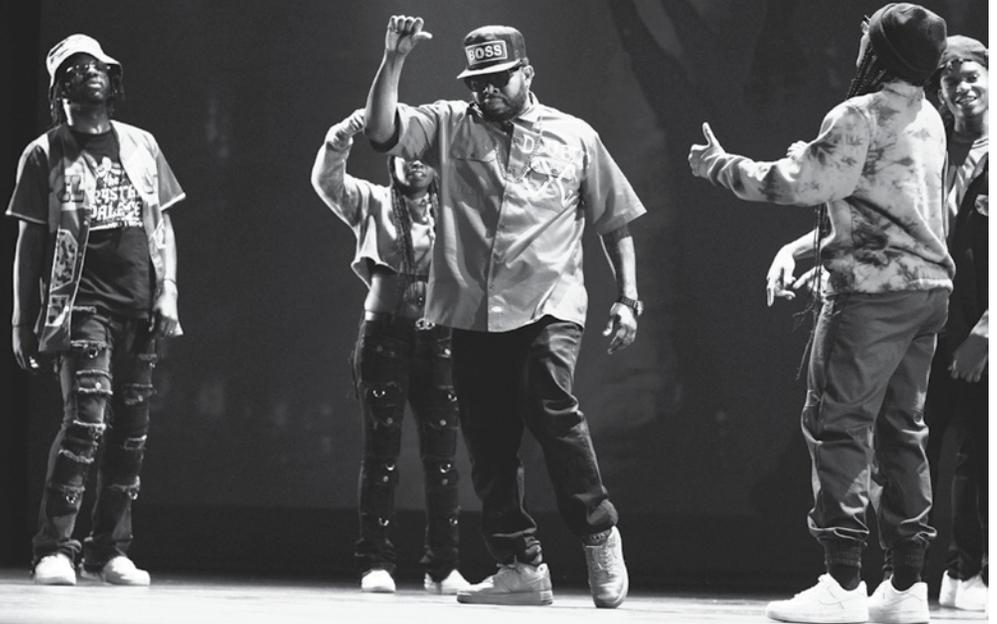
As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



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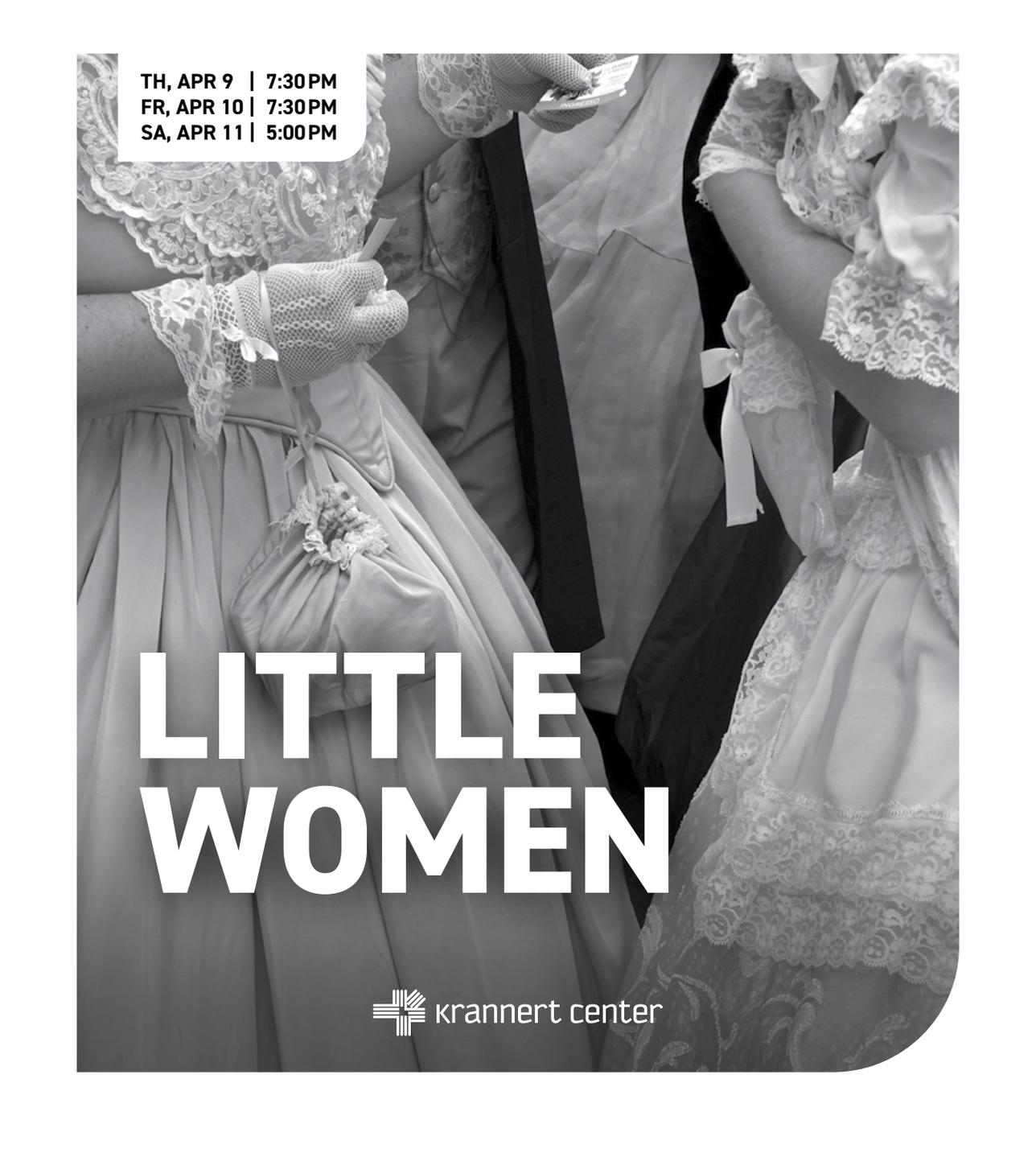
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