

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts (BTA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to producing plays of the highest possible standards, offering educational opportunities and cultural arts for our community.

Be A 2017 Season Supporter

Front Row Center \$2,500+

- a full page ad in all playbills
- TBTA Membership
- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo on our web site
- recognition on all posters and flyers
- recognition in all theatre advertising

Orchestra \$1,000-\$2,499

- a full page ad in all playbills
- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo & name on our web site
- TBTA Membership

Platinum \$500-\$999

- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo & name on our web site
- TBTA Membership

Gold \$250-\$499

- name recognition in all playbills
- name recognition on our web site
- TBTA Membership

Silver \$100-\$249

- name recognition in all playbills
- TBTA Membership

Bronze \$25-\$99

- name recognition in all playbills

Show Sponsor: Sponsor an individual show or special event for \$2,000

- full page ad in the playbill, "Show Sponsor" noted
- recognition, including your logo, in show playbills and web site
- recognition on posters and flyers
- recognition in all show advertising

TBTA Scholarship Fund

We are proud to award a college scholarship each year to graduating high schoolers that are pursuing theater arts. Applications are available at area high school guidance offices or by email from BrookfieldTheatreCT@gmail.com.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

Julia Bogdanoff 2017 • Jenny Dear / Zach Jackson 2012

Sammy Panzarino 2010 • Billy Shields 2007

Travis Moore 2006 • Rob Sniffin 2005 • Andrew Wheelock 2004

If you would like to be part of this giving tradition, please specify "TBTA Scholarship Fund" on your check.

**Donations are accepted on-line at
www.BrookfieldTheatre.org or by mail:
Brookfield Theatre, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Donation Amount _____

Scholarship Fund _____

Total Enclosed _____

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor.

*The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts
presents*

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: Battle of the Christmas Musicals



The Christmas Bride book by MK Wolfe, music & lyrics by Noel Katz

Director & Musical Director Noel Katz
STARRING: Megan Poulos, Cait Kelly, Georgia Fender, Connor
Coughlin, David Arthur Bachrach,
Joshua Spencer, Grant Tambellini, Matthew Griffin



Christmas Letters book, lyrics, and additional music by Paul Cozby, music and arrangements by Laura Bergquist

Director Lou Okell, Musical Director Laura Berquist
STARRING: Rebecca Pokorski, Steven Stott,
Jessica Schwartz, Edmund Fitzpatrick



Come Find Me book by Holly Reed and Eric Mears, lyrics by Holly Reed, music by Holly Reed & Kelvin Reed

Director Lou Okell, Musical Director Kelvin Reed
STARRING: Holly Reed, Craig David Rosen, Colin Larson,
David Jurman, Morgana Kate Watson, Brandon Zenevitch,
Narrated by Will Jeffries

CHRISTMAS IN JULY is produced by Lou Okell & Carol de Giere,
Technical help from David Jurman and Stephen Cihanek
Musical assistance from Emma Okell
Reception by Andrew Okell, Bob Lane, and the Board of Directors

THE CHRISTMAS BRIDE, CHRISTMAS LETTERS, and COME FIND ME
are presented with permission from show authors. We thank them for the generous use of their work
and for supplying show materials for these staged reading excerpts.

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. In the unlikely event of an emergency, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with copyright laws, the taking photos or recordings of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please turn off **ALL** non-essential electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons are welcome to text, tweet, or candy crush in the lobby.**

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

July 1, 2017

Dear Brookfield Theatre family & friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the creative work we accomplish here at Brookfield Theatre

As part of our 60th anniversary celebration, we are happy to present this experimental event—a battle of new musicals. You, our audience, will see three previews of new musicals by contemporary authors and composers—all on a holiday theme! These are staged reading excerpts with just a hint of the full story and music and with minimized casting. Each group of performers will give you a glimpse of what the full show might be.

And this is where we need your help: At the end of the evening, we will ask you to fill out the ballot on the next page. Only one of the three previews will be brought back to our stage in December fully rehearsed with complete cast, script and score as our holiday musical event. Please keep this program to receive a discount on tickets to the December performance!

We have so many people to thank for this event. First and foremost, our curator of new musicals Carol de Giere and her newsletter for writers of new musicals at **MusicalWriters.com**. Carol invited submissions from the musical writers' community and sorted through everything sent in. After selecting the 6 shows that best fit this event, she presented her selections to the Board of Directors who voted on the final 3 shows for tonight's preview. She provided support on every aspect of this event and we are so grateful for her dedication and hard work.

Thank you to all who sent shows for consideration. There were so many wonderful submissions, selection was very difficult. Special thanks to the three finalists who put in extra time and resources to make this event work. Noel Katz assembled his own team for "Christmas Bride", Laura Berquist and Holly Reed both consulted with us, edited songs to fit our event, and supplied extra help as needed. Many thanks to tonight's performers who took time out of their busy schedules to rehearse, travel, and perform for you tonight.

We must also thank our generous donors, supporters, and volunteers without whom this event would not be possible.

Please visit our web site at www.BrookfieldTheatre.org to see the rest of our 60th Anniversary Season events including "Damn Yankees", "Frost/Nixon", and "Noises Off!" plus staged readings and other events. We hope you will join us!

Enjoy the show,

Lou Okell, President

OUR HISTORY

The Country Players of Brookfield was founded in 1957 by Tillie Ciccala and Dot French. Plays were initially performed in church halls and school auditoriums. After a school complained about an actress appearing on stage in a slip, it became clear that this band of players needed a home of its own. After refurbishing this building (originally the Curtis school gym built in 1907), it has been the permanent home of the Country Players of Brookfield. The organization eventually grew to include a wide range of cultural offerings and, in 2003, changed its name to "The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts" (shortened to TBTA or Brookfield Theatre) to reflect this commitment. At the same time, plans began for the building of a lobby annex to offer a gathering place for social events and concerts, and gallery space for art exhibits. The new lobby was dedicated in 2005. 2017 marks our 60th anniversary and our re-dedication as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing quality live performances, cultural events, and educational workshops to the community.

Thank you to our 2017 Season Supporters

FRONT ROW CENTER \$2,500+

ORCHESTRA \$1,000-\$2,499

Rick & Paget Haylon

Novartis

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

Rebecca Pokorski

John Schwanke

GOLD \$250-\$499

Larry & Arlene Coleman

Wendy Davies

Philip R Kastellec & Megan Tallmer

SILVER \$100-\$249

Sue Beresin • Anthony Chiodo

Donald & Karlene Lombardo • Jim & Kathy Sullivan

BRONZE \$25-\$99

Maggi Heilweil • Ron Malyszka

IN-KIND SERVICES

Arketype • Simpson & Vail

*List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.
The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community theater.
Donations are tax deductible—please consult your tax professional.*

ADD YOUR NAME & SUPPORT OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

Brookfield Theatre Membership

Membership is still only \$20 and is a great way to support the theatre!

2017 Members

Aldis Alexander, Amanda Bevacqua, Danielle Calabrese,
Carol de Giere, Anne Marie Foran, Maggi Heilweil,
Carol Hoose, Steve Hoose, Jean A Jackson, Will Jeffries,
Desirae Kelley, Robert Lane, Donald Lombardo,
Karlene Lombardo, Bill McGee, MaryAnne McGee,
Monica O'Brien, Andrew Okell,
Lou Okell, Elizabeth Patrick, Rebecca Pokorski,
Joy Tagliavento, Nicole Veach, Becky Venable

Lifetime Members

Bart Geissinger, Barbara Locke, Wendell MacNeal,
Imelda O'Gara Roth, Bill Possidento,
Larry Stewart, David Tuttle

2016 Season Subscribers

Joseph & Angela Barna*, John Bottelsen*,
Laurie & Stacy Boxer*, Anna & Roy Chan*, Anthony Chiodo,
Larry & Arlene Coleman*, Deb Donofree*,
Diana & Dennis Filbert*, Mark Forlenza*,
Wilda Hayes*, Ilona & Mark Johnson*,
Gregory & Joanne Kelsey*, Donald & Karlene Lombardo*,
Brian & Janet McGovern**, John Muller*, Tara Peterson,
Brian & Kathy Reiff**, Anne & Clint Rickards*,
Sally Socci, Christine Volo*, Steve Wright*

**Subscription for Two. ** Two Subscriptions for Two.*

Gift of Theater

Thank you to our Gift of Theater Givers

Ailene Janeczek, Wendy Leon-Gambetta, Carolyn Lyon,
Courtney Matteson, Pete & Kristi McPadden,
Lou Okell, Stefania Wilcox

Thank you for your support!

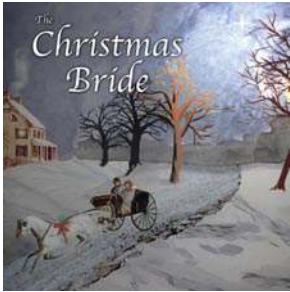
List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY BALLOT

Please select one show to be presented in December:

- The Christmas Bride** **Christmas Letters** **Come Find Me**

COMMENTS: _____



The Christmas Bride book by MK Wolfe, music & lyrics by Noel Katz

Director & Musical Director Noel Katz

STARRING:

**Megan Poulos, Cait Kelly, Georgia Fender,
Connor Coughlin, David Arthur Bachrach, Joshua
Spencer, Grant Tambellini, Matthew Griffin**

THE CHRISTMAS BRIDE is a joyous holiday tale of love lost and found, home and family, faith and forgiveness. From the bright English countryside to the dark underbelly of London town, this charming musical based on a Charles Dickens Christmas story follows young Marion Jeddler on her journey of discovery through a world filled with delightful Dickensian characters and featuring a lively musical theater score.

MK Wolfe (Book) is a playwright and lyricist whose plays and musicals have been professionally staged in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Burbank, Pasadena, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maine. Most recently her musical THE SOCK WHO LOST HIS MATE (book, lyrics; music by Thomas Adams) kicked off the 4th Annual Children's Theater Festival in New York, and her play ANYTHING HELPS GOD BLESS (co-authored with Al D'Andrea) had a sold-out workshop production on its way to full production this fall. Currently living in Portland Maine, she is the producing director of Snowlion Repertory Company, a professional theater devoted to creating, developing and producing new works for the stage. Other writing work has appeared in webzines, industry publications and national magazines (most recently FUNNY TIMES), and her short story RATIONS was just published in the sci-fi anthology ALL THE KINGS MEN (Deeper Meanings Publishing; Shane W. Smith, editor). As a former zookeeper and animal handler in Los Angeles, she also creates and performs fun zoology lectures and counts her multimedia AVIAN OLYMPICS among her favorite works. www.snowlionrep.org

Noel Katz (Music & Lyrics) Noel Katz's career began over 40 years ago, with the Hollywood improv troupe, OFF THE WALL, where he worked with the then-undiscovered Robin Williams. He returned to his native New York as the youngest member of the BMI musical theatre writing workshop under Lehman Engel. Hes had sixteen musicals produced, including SUCH GOOD FRIENDS, which premiered in the 2007 New York Musical Theater Festival, winning three NYMF Awards and two Talkin' Broadway Citations, including Best Musical. He wrote a musical comedy in which he actually married casting director Joy Dewing at the Soho Playhouse, with singing bridesmaids, preacher, parents, and four-year-old flower girl. His Gilbert and Sullivan-esque backstage mystery, MURDER AT THE SAVOY, sold out at the 50th Edinburgh Festival, got five stars from THE SCOTSMAN, and has since been produced four more times in Great Britain. Most recently, his revue, THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE was revived in cabarets in both New York and Los Angeles. His other musicals include THE HEAVENLY THEATRE, ON THE BRINK, AREA 51, and five revues for Second City.



Christmas Letters
book, lyrics, and
additional music by
Paul Cozby,
music and arrangements
by **Laura Bergquist**

Director Lou Okell,
Musical Director Laura Bergquist

STARRING:

Rebecca Pokorski, Steven Stott, Jessica Schwartz, Edmund Fitzpatrick*

CHRISTMAS LETTERS is an original musical comedy unfolding in a series of comic and poignant vignettes with four actors bringing 46 characters to life celebrating everything that drives us crazy about Christmas...and why we love it anyway. From receiving that first obnoxious Christmas letter to taking the family picture, from dealing with in-laws, to facing unassembled gifts on Christmas Eve, "Christmas Letters" shows why sometimes we want to "wreck the halls" and why were wistful when Christmas is over.

Paul Cozby (Book, LYRICS & ADDITIONAL MUSIC) is an award-winning playwright and writes book, music and lyrics for his own original musicals, including BABES AT SEA, PANTHER CITY and RICHARD M. NIXON HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS CYRANOSE! THE MUSICAL. Bull Market Productions produced Paul's musical THE DAY TRADERS at The Triad in New York, and that show launches this year at sales meetings and business conventions nationwide. Paul wrote a new book and additional lyrics for composer Bert Draesel and lyricist Nancy Leeds for THE DANCING PRINCESS, based on the beloved children's book by author and illustrator Judith Gwyn Brown. It was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Center National Musical Theater Workshop. Paul also collaborated with Tom Hyndman on a musical in development FICTITIOUS: A Completely Unauthorized Musical Parody Definitely Not Based on the Life of Arnold Schwarzenegger. FICTITIOUS was performed Off Broadway as part of the 2016 Sound Bites 10-Minute Musical Festival. Additionally, Lone Star Theatre Co. produced ONLY HUMANS LIKE MY MUSIC: The Songs of Paul Cozby, a sold-out night at Laurie Beechman Theatre. Paul was honored to write the script for American Opera Projects Gala OPERA DOES BROADWAY DOES OPERA celebrating the life and work of Stephen Schwartz. Through their company, The Musical Machine, Paul and his wife, Sherry, associate produced with Tony-winning producer Van Dean the world premiere and Off Broadway debut of ROOMS A ROCK ROMANCE, directed by Scott Schwartz. And Paul was proud to be one of producer Ken Davenport's POGs (People of GODSPELL), helping bring that beloved musical back to Broadway. A newspaper reporter and editor in a previous life, Paul enjoys writing about New York and theater. And he currently serves as communications director at Fellowship for Performing Arts, producers of the Off Broadway hit THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS. Paul and Sherry live on New York's Upper West Side with their Chihuahua, Whinnie. None of their five kids went to the University of Texas, and Paul will get over that someday. Paul talks all things musical at his blog/website PaulCozby.com

Laura Bergquist (Music/ARRANGEMENTS) conducted National and International Tours of THE KING AND I, TITANIC and MISS SAIGON. She is a frequent guest conductor in regional theaters and a clinician in universities and churches. As an ASCAP Awards recipient for composition, her personal catalogue includes more than 60 works in print and several recordings. Laura was the original Musical Director for JANE EYRE as well as a contributing arranger. On Broadway, she was Musical Director and Conductor for ALLEGIANCE: A NEW MUSICAL (Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, Lorenzo Thione, directed by Stafford Arima) starring Lea Salonga, George Takei and Telly Leung. Current projects include World Premieres of DADDY LONG LEGS (John Caird & Paul Gordon - additional arrangements by Laura), JANE AUSTENS: EMMA (Paul Gordon - The York Theatre) and SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (Paul Gordon, directed by Barbara Gaines - produced at Chicago Shakespeare and The Old Globe). Regional work as Musical Director and Conductor include The Old Globe, Paper Mill Playhouse, Chicago Shakespeare, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, TheatreWorks, Northlight, Cleveland Playhouse, Rubicon Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Music Theatre of Wichita, The Forum Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company and Baltimore Center Stage. Laura has also performed with NY Cabaret performer, Steve Ross,

is Music Director and Conductor for Broadway Backwards and works as a Casting Consultant with Disney Theme Parks and Cruise Line casting around the world. In New York she has been the Music Director and Arranger for numerous readings and workshops including NAMT, New York Stage and Film, New York Musical Theatre Festival, Midtown International Theatre Festival and performed at Joes Pub, 54 Below, Avery Fisher Hall, Symphony Space and Merkin Hall. She is regularly called on as a musical director and arranger for concerts, auditions, workshops, industrials and showcases. Laura lives in New York City with her amazing husband, Joe, and maintains a large coaching studio in Hells Kitchen.

*Edmund Fitzpatrick appears here courtesy of Actors Equity Association.



Come Find Me
book by Holly Reed and
Eric Mears,
lyrics by Holly Reed,
music by Holly Reed
& Kelvin Reed

Director Lou Okell, Musical
Director Kelvin Reed

STARRING: Holly Reed, Craig David Rosen, Colin Larson,
David Jurman, Morgana Kate Watson, Brandon Zenevitch,
Narrated by Will Jeffries

COME FIND ME tells the story of Ben, an autistic child, and his widower father Harry. When Harry is deployed on a secret military mission in the weeks before Christmas, Ben is left in the care of a grad student caregiver. He struggles with the prospect of spending the holidays without family. With the help of some creative elves and the power of belief, Ben and Harry not only find each other, but a new sense of the meaning of the season.

Holly Reed (Book, LYRICS, MUSIC/KAMI) With an extremely active muse, a surplus of passion, and a resolute drive to achieve, Holly proudly embraces the title of creative multi-hyphenate. Having established an award-winning design firm as well as enjoyed a lifelong performance and directing career on both the musical and theatrical stage, Holly is blessed to be able to embrace multiple aspects of her creativity. Holly is the owner and creative director of Reed Creative Group, a design firm serving a variety of regional and national clientele. On the stage, her favorite roles include Nancy (OLIVER!) and Corrie ten Boom (THE WEAVING, regional premiere). She has also been cast in a variety of commercials and short films. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, and Dallas STAGE. Holly holds a BFA from the University of Texas at Arlington. She has taught voice and piano and directed multiple children's and student choirs. Holly currently lives in Texas with her husband (Kelvin) and three children.

Kelvin Reed (Music) Kelvin has served as a Music and Worship Pastor for over 25 years. He is currently serving at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, and weekly leads a congregation of over 4000. He is an avid pianist, composer and arranger and has produced several recording projects with various choirs. His choral groups have performed in Chicago, Denver, New Orleans (with Lenny Kravitz), New York City, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. Kelvin is from Clearwater, Florida, where he grew up developing a love for music in the church. He received a Bachelor of Music Education at Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Eric Mears (Book) Eric Mears is the Director of Forensics at Flower Mound High School in Texas. In this capacity, he has coached multiple actors to state and national level contests in high school dramatic events. Mr. Mears also serves as an adjudicator for the University Interscholastic League, Texas Forensic Association, and National Speech and Debate Association. As a student, Mr. Mears competed in solo and duet dramatic events through forensics and appeared on stage in five productions. He is also an avid pianist and arranger. He and his wife have two children and currently reside in Lewisville.