

WELCOME BACK.



CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS
Governors State University



Respecting our Past. Reimagining our Future. **Together.**

BACK TOGETHER
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HOWARD BLAKE'S
THE SNOWMAN
& OTHER HOLIDAY FAVORITES

DECEMBER 11, 2021, 3PM

Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*



Tickets available at
ipomusic.org



Presented by Ozinga





Welcome to Governors State University's 2021-22 Cultural Season. For 25 seasons, the Center has provided world-class entertainment and educational enlightenment to the Chicago Southland region, making GSU *THE* cultural destination of the Chicago Southland.

This season features international, critically-acclaimed acts such as MOMIX; socially relevant dramas such as Mike Wiley's *Breach of Peace: Stories of Freedom Riders of 1961*; burgeoning local talent from our Theater and Performance Studies students; and joyful concerts from Grammy-Award winning Karen Clark Sheard and Emmy-Award winning Orbert Davis.

Our campus is also home to the Nate, rated as the number one sculpture park in the country by *USA Today's* Reader's Choice. Open from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, this stunning collection of 30 large-scale works of art is displayed across 100 acres of breathtaking prairie and is free and open to the public.

Join us for what will be a transformative season of art, music, dance, and storytelling.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Green, Ph.D.
President, Governors State University



The Center's 25th Anniversary Cultural Season was unexpectedly seized by the COVID-19 pandemic. It shut down the performing arts industry and most of the world but we did not stop. Our anniversary included cultural events streamed from and recorded on our stage, broadcast on WTTW and shared with patrons, educators, and parents. After more than 18 months of separation, it's so good to be together in person once again!

Today, I invite you to experience the power of present, the power of LIVE moments. Unlike an art exhibit, your favorite music recording or a TV show, LIVE experience could only happen once.

This is YOUR Center for Performing Arts. Please know that our team deeply cares about your experience. If you have suggestions about artists to bring to the theater or ideas on how to make your visit a more welcoming one, I am all ears. Reach out, speak up, share your ideas.

Sincerely,

Lana Rogachevskaya
Executive Director, Center for Performing Arts



CENTER WHO'S WHO



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*Vice President, Institutional
Advancement and CEO, GSU
Foundation*

Dr. Andrae Marak

*Dean, College of Arts and Science
and Graduate Studies*

Dr. Jason Zingsheim

CAS Division Chair, Arts and Letters

MEET OUR TEAM

Programming & Administrative:

Lana Rogachevskaya,

Executive Director

Kathleen Brennan, *Arts in Education
Director*

Virginia Lionberger, *Office
Administrator*

Box Office:

Patricia Guy, *Box Office Manager*

Autumn Price, *Ticketing Assistant*

Stevie Allen, *Student Assistant*

William Benik, *Student Assistant*

Cynthia Jones, *Student Assistant*

Marketing:

Jane Cox, *Cultural Marketing Director*

C. Kimberly Gonzalez,
Publicity-Promotion Associate

Sadé May, *Marketing Assistant*

Operations / Front of House:

Joe Kvorciak, *Theater Manager*

Ingrid Anderson, *Patron Services Manager*

Nekia Driver, *Concessions & Event Assistant*

Maya Shelton, *Concessions & Event Assistant*

Technical:

Michael Krull, *Technical Director*

Ian West, *Assistant Technical Director*

Tracey Offett, *Technical Assistant*

VOLUNTEER

FOR THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS AT GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY!



**Join our dedicated Usher Corps Team
to share your skills and passion, while seeing
performances free of charge!**

Duties include greeting and directing patrons, scanning tickets, passing out programs, seating patrons, and assisting latecomers and patrons with limited mobility.

Visit www.govst.edu/volunteer for a complete list of duties and upcoming events. Contact Patron Services Manager, Ingrid Anderson at ianderson@govst.edu or call 708.235.2239 to sign-up.

**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University

1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60484

CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222

VIVA MOMIX FOREVER

Experience the Exceptional...Expect the Unexpected!



Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. Transporting audiences from their everyday lives to a fantasy world through its trademark use of magical lighting and imagery, MOMIX has thrilled fans in over 22 countries and has been featured on stage, screen, and television.

"Momix's inventiveness and artistry far surpass the popular Cirque du Soleil. - The Philadelphia Inquirer

**Saturday, January 29
at 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets: \$45/\$50/\$55/\$60

Children 14 & under: \$20

This engagement is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council and the Crane Group.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL'S

ALL TOGETHER NOW

-A GLOBAL EVENT CELEBRATING LOCAL THEATER-

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com



**Saturday, December 11
at 1 & 5 p.m.**

Tickets start at \$25 for adults and
\$20 for children 14 and under

NBC's America's Got Talent semi-finalists Lightwire Theater combines performance, puppetry, dance, and modern light technology to bring stories to life in complete darkness. This one hour production is perfect for the entire family!

A Very Electric Christmas follow the story of a young bird named Max and his family as they begin their journey south for the winter. When Max gets blown off course and ends up at the North Pole...his adventure begins!

Dancing toy soldiers, caroling worms and performing poinsettias, illuminate the stage. The entire family will treasure this magical and captivating tale of family, friendship and hope set to timeless holiday hits, including Nat King Cole, Mariah Carey and Tchaikovsky.

**FREE Santa's STEAM Workshop & Resource Fair in
the Hall of Governors from 2 to 4:30 p.m.**

Leap into the world of STEAM-inspired activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) with Lightwire Theater artists, GSU faculty, and community partners. Learn the art and science behind electroluminescent artistry. Meet and take photos with Santa and enjoy delicious, festive treats!

This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Production Team

Direction

J.R. Willard-Rose

Musical Directors

Jenna Odom, Steve Sifner

Lighting Design

Michael Krull

Deck Captain/ Fly Rail

Tracey Offett

CPA Audio Engineer

Ian West



J.R. Willard-Rose is a theatre educator and theatre director at Homewood-Flossmoor High School and the Artistic Director of Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) at Governors State University. He has directed over 75 plays and musicals in the high school, community theatre, and professional arenas in the Chicago area since 2002. Recently, he directed the professional Equity Midwest premier of *First Date* at Chicago's Royal George Theatre where it ran for over 3 months. He has had the honor of directing twice internationally; his production of *Once On This Island* was selected to perform at the prestigious Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, and his production of *Proof*, was transferred for a run at the Stables Theatre in Hastings, England. In 2008 J.R. was the Executive Director for the Illinois High School Theatre Festival and In 2013 he was selected to direct the All-State production of *Memphis*, the first production of the smash musical outside of Broadway. In 2006, he was honored at the Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel Awards as he was named the "Outstanding Early Career Educator" for the state of Illinois. He has been a guest presenter twice at the Educational Theatre Association's national conference presenting on Leadership in Theatre and Non-Traditional Casting and Diversity in the Arts. Love always to his family, especially his husband Brandon and son Rowan.

Musical Numbers

"Pure Imagination" from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, Book by David Greig

Steve Sifner,

Stella Hoyt

"You Could Drive a Person Crazy" from *Company*, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by George Furth

Jenna Odom, Mandi Corrado,

Annie Calderon

"Back to Before" from *Ragtime*, Music by Stephen Flaherty, Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Book by Terrance McNally

Meghan Hoyt,

Annie Calderon, Mandi Corrado,

Stella Hoyt, Jenna Odom

"Gimme, Gimme" from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, New Music by Jeanine Tesori, New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan, Book by Richard Henry Morris and Dick Scanlan, Original Story and Screenplay by Richard Morris for the Universal Pictures Film

Mandi Corrado

"Life is So Peculiar" from *Five Guys Named Moe*, Music and Lyrics by Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke, Book by Clarke Peters

Ron Bowden, Jr.,

Thomas Erhardt, Tyler McMahon,

Nick Narcisi, Steve Sifner,

Brandon Willard-Rose,

"Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" from *Les Misérables*, Music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, Lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer, Book by Alain Boubil and Claude Michel Schönberg

Tyler McMahon, Thomas Erhardt

"The New World" from *Songs for a New World*, Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Nick Narcisi,

Brandon Willard-Rose,

Stella Hoyt, Meghan Hoyt

Musical Numbers (cont'd)

"She Used To Be Mine" from *Waitress*, Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles, Book by Jessie Nelson

Annie Calderon

"Seize the Day" from Disney's *Newsies*, Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Jack Feldman, Book by Harvey Fierstein

*Thomas Erhardt, Nick Narcisi,
Ensemble*

"When I Grow Up" from *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*, Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin, Book by Dennis Kelly

*Stella Hoyt, Jenna Odom,
Ensemble*

"Stop the World" from *Come From Away*, Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

*Steve Sifner, Jr., Meghan Hoyt,
Ensemble*

"Astonishing" from *Little Women*, Music by Jason Howland, Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, Book by Allan Knee

Jenna Odom

"Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls*, Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser, Book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling

Tyler McMahon, Ensemble

"Beautiful City" from *Godspell*, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, Book by John-Michael Tebelak, Conceived and Originally Directed by John-Michael Tebelak

Brandon Willard-Rose

"Seasons of Love" from *Rent*, Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Ensemble



Ron Bowden, Jr. is the Technical Director and Musical Director at Grayslake North High School. He is an alumnus of The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he got his BFA in Acting. Ron has been seen in many productions throughout the south suburbs over the years with SLATE Theatre and with the Chicago Heights Drama Group. Ron is a founder and board member of the Griot Theatre Collective. Ron is so blessed and excited to be performing with people again after this long pandemic. Ron encourages everyone to get vaccinated and to wear your mask when in public. As always, Ron would like to thank

J.R. for this opportunity and his parents, family and friends for their continued support in all his endeavors.



Annie Calderon is excited to be a part of this cabaret, and to be working with so many talented, wonderful friends! She's legitimately 9 months pregnant, and really hoping she doesn't go into labor on stage. Annie longs for the moment when she can be back on stage like the good old days, but is thrilled to be able to be performing in any capacity during these wild times. Enjoy the show, and get vaccinated!



Mandi Carrao is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University where she received a Bachelor of the Arts Degree in Theatre Arts. Mandi is thrilled to be returning to the GSU stage where she has performed many times, beginning with her GSU debut as Julia in *The Wedding Singer*, to her most recent performance in the 2016 production of *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Some favorite "Pre-COVID" Chicago credits include Doralee in *9 to 5: The Musical* with Big Noise Theatre, Princess Fiona in *Shrek: The Musical* with Windy City Music Theatre, and the Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* with a Madkap Productions. Mandi also frequents the Chicago cabaret scene with Davenports

Piano Bar and Cabaret. Thanks for coming and enjoy the show!



Thomas Erhardt is thrilled to be performing in this production of *All Together Now!* He is just coming off of choreographing a production of *The Music Man* in Kankakee and is now choreographing *A Christmas Carol* in Orland Park. He would like to thank JR for the opportunity to perform, his family for their support, and especially Tyler. Enjoy!!!



Meghan Hoyt has been performing throughout the Chicagoland area since the age of 6. Favorite roles include Alison in *Fun Home* at the Towle Theatre, Amy in *Company* at Porchlight Music Theatre, The Witch in *Into the Woods* and Sarah Jane Moore in *Assasins* with Slate Theatre, and Mother in *Ragtime* at The Drama Group. Perhaps her most important role is Mom to Stella and Cooper. Meghan is represented by Gray Talent Group and is so happy to be sharing the stage again with these beautiful artists!



Stella Hoyt Stella Rose Hoyt began singing and acting at the age of 4, enjoying such roles as Molly in *Annie*, Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden*, and Jane in *Mary Poppins*. At age 8 she started her professional career after being cast as Molly in *Annie Warbucks* at Theatre at the Center. Stella then had the honor of playing Small Alison in *Fun Home* at Victory Gardens Theatre, directed by Gary Griffin. She has continued to work professionally playing Mary Claire in *The Christmas Schooner* at Mercury Theatre and Susan in *Miracle on 34th Street* at Theatre

at the Center. Stella is currently a Freshman at Homewood Flossmoor High School. She spends most of her time in the theatre wing of school rehearsing for plays, musicals, choir and speech team! She is represented by Gray Talent Group.



Tyler McMahon is always happy to return to SLATE and GSU to perform. Tyler has previously been seen on the GSU stage as Tateh in *Ragtime*, Berger in *Hair* and Berfeé in *Spelling Bee*. He also directed *Jesus Christ Superstar* in early 2019. Tyler is very active around the south suburbs and is currently in rehearsals for *A Christmas Carol* in Orland Park. He thanks Thomas, Aubrey, the cast and crew and his friends and family for their support! Enjoy the show!!



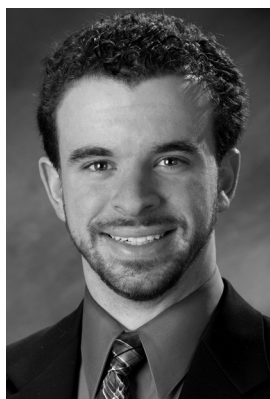
Nick Narcisi is ecstatic to be back doing theatre in person! He has a BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is a graduate of Homewood-Flossmoor High School. He was last seen at Governors State playing Houdini in *Ragtime*. Some favorite credits include: Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Banquo in *Macbeth* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre), Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* (Macklenberg Playhouse), Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis), M in *Lungs* (Third Avenue Playhouse), and Ethan in *Sex with Strangers* (Renaissance

Theaterworks). He has also worked with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, the Great River Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Lila, the Children's Theatre of Madison, Theatre Red, Truepenny Theatre, and Riverside Theatre in the Park (Iowa City). For more information follow Nick, @NickNarcisi on Instagram or visit www.NickNarcisi.com.



Jenna Odom is a native of Kansas City, Missouri. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory of Music & Dance as well as a Masters in Voice from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. She has had the opportunity to sing such roles as the title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Lady Billows in Britten's *Albert Herring*, and Madame Lidoine in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. In the spring of 2020, she was selected as a semi-finalist in the Wagner Division of the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition.

She has been seen in Chicago singing the role of Mrs Grose in Britten's *Turn of the Screw* with Chicago Summer Opera as well as making her debut with Third Eye Ensemble as Sarah in Paula Kimper's contemporary opera *Sarah & Patience: A Pioneering Love Story*. For the last two summers she has been a part of the American Wagner Project in collaboration with the Institute of Young Dramatic Voices working with Metropolitan Opera Legends, Dolora Zajick & Luana DeVol. Ms. Odom is currently the Vocal Director & Department Chair at the Hammond Arts & Performance Academy. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the National Opera Association, Opera America and the Chicago Vocal Arts Consortium.



Steve Sifner currently serves as the Choir Director at Homewood-Flossmoor High School and is thrilled to be returning to the stage as a part of the cast of *All Together Now*. Previously, Steve served as Assistant Choral Director at Westlake High School in Austin, TX, a program including over 400 singers. While in Texas, he sang professionally with the *Conspirare* Symphonic Choir directed by Grammy award-winning conductor Craig Hella Johnson. Other professional singing credits include Austin's *Panoramic Voices* and *Inversion Ensemble*. Steve is a graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and would like to thank his partner Kelly and dog Luke for supporting all his music and teaching endeavors!



Brandon Willard-Rose is very excited to return to the GSU stage tonight. After building a modest Regional Theater career on the east coast, where he performed in such productions as *Hair* at the Serenbe Playhouse, *The Wedding Singer* at The Alhambra, *Hot Mikado* at Theater Jax, as well as becoming a finalist on Fox TV's *Before the Fame Talent Tour*. Since moving to Chicago he has been seen in *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Caroline or Change* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at SLATE, *Eurydice* at Governors State University, and *Phantom* at Oak Lawn. He would like to thank his parents, family, husband J.R. and son Rowan for always supporting him in all his endeavors.

Upcoming TAPS Productions
GSU Dance Company Presents
25 Years of Broadway and Beyond...

Directed by Megan Lindsay

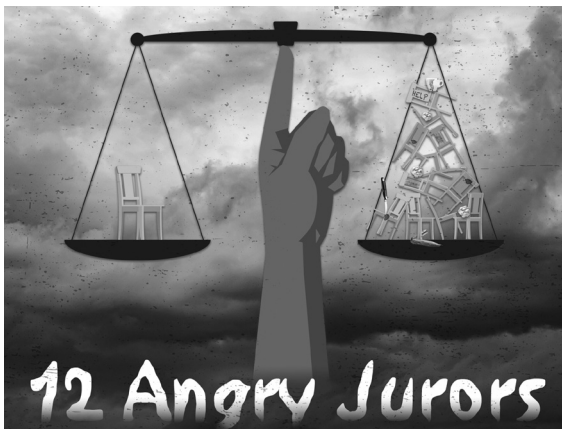


Friday, February 11, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
GSU's Center for Performing Arts

12 Angry Jurors

Directed by Patrick Santoro
Adapted by Sherman L. Sergel

Based on the Emmy award-winning television movie by Reginald Rose
Produced by Special Arrangement with The Dramatic Pulishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois



Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
GSU's Center for Performing Arts

Center for Performing Arts

COVID - 19 Audience Safety Precautions

Masks

Patrons ages 2 and older who attend a performance at the Center for Performing Arts (CPA), even if they are vaccinated against COVID-19, are required to properly wear masks at all times while visiting Governors State University's indoor campus spaces, including restrooms, lobby areas and inside the theatre while walking to their seats and throughout the performance. Unvaccinated individuals ages 2 and older are also required to properly wear masks while in any outdoor spaces on Governors State University's campus, including in parking lots and on sidewalks and lawns. Vaccinated individuals are encouraged, but not required, to wear masks while in outdoor spaces on campus for the protection of their health, especially whenever they are unable to maintain social distancing. Children younger than the age of 2 are exempt from being required to wear masks.

Proof of Vaccination

Patrons of the CPA are required to show proof they are fully vaccinated ("Proof of Vaccination") until further notice. Proof can include either an electronic copy, photo copy or photo along of an official CDC vaccination record card along with photo ID at the time of entry into the venue with a valid ticket. "Fully vaccinated" means the performance date must be at least 14 days after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, or at least 14 days after a single-dose vaccine.

For those that are not fully vaccinated on the performance date, for any reason, proof of negative COVID-19 test ("Proof of Negative Test") will be required. The negative result of a PCR COVID-19 test is acceptable only if the test was taken within 72 hours of the performance start time; the negative result of a COVID-19 antigen test is acceptable only if the test was taken within 6 hours of the performance start time. No results from home tests will be accepted. This proof of negative COVID-19 test alternative includes accommodations for people with a medical condition or closely held religious belief that prevents vaccination.

Children Not Eligible for Vaccination

Children under the age of eligibility for vaccination under FDA and CDC guidelines (which currently state children under the age of 12 are ineligible), may attend performances without showing Proof of Negative Test, but must be fully masked at all times if age 2 or older.

Orbert Davis'

Chicago Jazz Philharmonic

Forward Momentum



Saturday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25/\$29/\$39/\$49

Orbert Davis and members of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic bring the first installment of their new CJP Collective Series to the Center for an evening of inspiring music, featuring jazz legends alongside young, up-and-coming musicians. This cross-generational production will highlight GSU honorary degree recipient Orbert Davis, GSU alum saxophonist Mwata Bowden (MA '79) and revered saxophonist Ari Brown with emerging talents, saxophonist Justin Smith (BA '18) and Kevin King (CJP Jazz Academy alum). Other highlights include award-winning vocalist Maggie Brown and her sister, Afric, paying tribute to their legendary father, Oscar Brown Jr. In addition, Orbert will be joined by Chicago trumpet masters, Victor Garcia and Pharez Whitted in a tribute to the late, great Freddie Hubbard.

This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



2021 - 2022 Season **Continues!**

NOVEMBER 2021

Orbert Davis'

Chicago Jazz Philharmonic

Forward Momentum

Saturday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2021

Lightwire Theater:

A Very Electric Christmas

Saturday, December 11 at 1 and 5 p.m.

JANUARY 2022

Opera Up Close:

Happy Birthday, Mozart!

Sunday, January 23 at 4 p.m.

Viva Momix Forever

Saturday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2022

25 Years of Broadway and Beyond

GSU Dance Company, TAPS

Friday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

***Breach of Peace: Stories of the
Freedom Riders of 1961***

Tuesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 2022

***A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The
Queen of Soul***

Sunday, March 13 at 4 p.m.

APRIL 2022

12 Angry Jurors, TAPS

Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

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