

# GUEST ARTISTS / ADJUDICATORS

**KATE ARTHUR** currently teaches theatre at Northgate High School in Newnan, Georgia. She recently relocated from Rhode Island where she was the Chapter Director for RI-EdTA for the past six years and taught theatre at North Kingstown High School for eight years. Kate has worked on and offstage in various theatres in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

**KAREN BALZER** is Artistic Director for Jackson Purchase Dance Company and professor at Murray State University. She directed and choreographed over 500 musicals including the off Broadway musical, *The Medicine Show*, and *Asylum*. She toured an original story/ballet version of *The Hobbit* and an original contemporary ballet, *THE UNIVERSE* to New York City with Manhattan Tour and Travel.

**BECKY BECKER** teaches theatre history, script analysis, playwriting, and heads the BA program in theatre at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. Her directing credits include: *Once On This Island*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Laramie Project*, *Blood Wedding* and *Machinal*. She has conceived and directed several oral history performances, including *Collective Lives: Memory in Motion*.

**HUNTER BELL** earned a Tony nomination for Best Book of a Musical for [title of show]. Other credits: the books for *Silence! The Musical*, *Bellobration!* (Ringling Bros), *Villains Tonight!* (Disney) and the upcoming musical *Now. Here. This*. He is a graduate of Woodward Academy, Webster University, and a proud former Georgia Thespian and state student officer.

**CRAIG BRANCH** is a Thespian Alum from Troupe #4783. Currently, Craig is the Educational Programs Manager for the Educational Theatre Association, where he coordinates several national Thespian events, including the Junior Thespian Festival and the International Thespian Festival. While Craig enjoys traveling to events like the Georgia Thespian Conference, he always returns to his home on the stage whenever possible.

**NANCY BROWN** has been on the EdTA staff for 21 years. She oversees the planning of the Thespian Festival and the activities of the International Thespian Officers.

**GAIL BURNS** is a retired 40 year state and national award winning teacher of theater and gifted and talented, Arkansas State Board Member, former Arkansas State Chapter Director, EdTA Regional Director, and EdTA President, EdTA Hall of Fame Recipient, serves on the National Thespian Scholarship Committee, currently Executive Director for the helping hands Foundation, Inc. currently lives in Rector, Arkansas.

**DIANE CARR** coordinates chapter relations for the Educational Theatre Association and is also responsible for adult educational programming. Diane holds a masters in secondary education, a masters in English and an MBA. A costume designer for Cincinnati theatres, Diane is on faculty at CCM Preparatory and serves as vice president for the League of Cincinnati Theatres.

**DUREYEA COLLIER** graduated with a BFA in theater Performance from Columbus State University. There he choreographed and directed many musicals and shows including *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Mr. Marmalade*, and *Once on This Island*. He's trained in many dance disciplines including jazz, modern, hip hop, and ballet.

**RENA COOK** is Professor of Voice, Speech and Dialects at the University of Oklahoma. She holds an MA in voice from the Central School of Speech and Drama, London. Her book *Voice and the Young Actor: A guide to vocal freedom* is set for publication by Methuen in 2012. She has presented voice workshops throughout the US and the UK.

**JAKE CULLENS** is an actor in New York City, studying at the Actors Studio Drama School. He has performed on stage and in film in New York and in other regional theaters including Atlanta. He taught acting and film in Gwinnett County and has delivered workshops for Georgia Thespians and the International Thespian Conference.

**CHRISTOPHER DILLS** is a third year Scenic Design Graduate Student at Boston University. He holds a BFA in Technical Theatre from Columbus State University. He recently completed an internship with The Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles. Recent design credits include *The Merchant of Venice* (Interlochen Shakespeare Festival) and *Roméo et Juliette* (Boston University School of Opera). [www.christopherdills.com](http://www.christopherdills.com)

**KATY DI SAVINO** is the Marketing and Social Media Supervisor at Samuel French, Inc., and the editor of Samuel French's monologue series, EXCEPTIONAL MONOLOGUES. She graduated from The George Washington University in DC with a BA in English and Creative Writing.

**CASSANDRA EDWARDS** is the theatre director at Lithia Springs High School and is a member of the Georgia Thespian Board. She runs the Tech Challenge event for our conference. She has taught for thirteen years, directed over fifty productions, and worked in the theatre profession since 1996.

**FABREFACTION THEATRE COMPANY** is a recent addition to the Atlanta professional theatre scene. We produce works that speak to audience of all ages, in every style, and offer several education programs. FTC's vision is to bring the power of shared human experiences to all people through the art of theatre. Visit us at [Fabrefaction.org](http://Fabrefaction.org) for more info and auditions!

**RICHARD FRAZIER** is a recent graduate of Columbus State University who has recently become the new Dance and Drama teacher at Northside High School in Warner Robins. Richard has also been the Assistant Choreographer of the Opening Number for the past 5 years and is also the Assistant Director of AIDA.

**JOHN FRIEDENBERG** is the Director of Theatre and Senior Lecturer at Wake Forest University where he has taught for over 20 years. He is a director, producer, KC/ACTF Respondent, and Adjudicator for State and Thespian organizations for design, stage management, marketing, and one act events.

**ADAM FRISTOE** is Co-Artistic Director of Out of Hand Theater where he creates original shows that tour internationally. He teaches at Emory University and KSU. Most recently, Adam co-stars in MTV's *Teen Wolf* and in the upcoming feature films *The Proxy* and *Congratulations!* His original show, *Group Intelligence*, toured Europe last summer and the US in 2012.

**PATRICK GENDUSA** has worked professionally as a performer, director, and instructor in New York, Texas, New Mexico, Virginia, and Louisiana. He received his BA in Theatre Arts from St. Edwards University and his MFA in Acting and Directing from Texas Tech University. Currently he is Visiting Assistant Professor at Loyola University New Orleans.

**STEPHEN GREGG'S** plays include *This is a Test*, *Twitch*, *Small Actors*, *Poor Little Lambs*, *One Lane Bridge* and *Happy Birthday, Heather Higby (I am plotting your doom)*. He's taught playwriting at hundreds of playwriting conferences, including at the International Thespian Conference, for over twenty years. He writes the Playwright Now blog at the Educational Theatre Association's website, schooltheatre.org

**CHRIS HARBOUR** is a theatre teacher in Fulton County with a degree in theatre education from Columbus State University. He also remains a working actor, currently as an apprentice at Whole World Improv Theatre in Atlanta. Some other recent credits include performing at the Cumming Playhouse and film-acting with MTV and *Vampire Diaries*.

**ALAN HECKNER** is a working actor and published playwright. A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in acting, he has appeared in productions at Horizon Theatre, the Houston Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Lab Houston, and Stages Repertory Theatre. His plays have been produced in over 40 cities and schools across the country.

**JAMES HOOPER** became interested in sound systems around the age of 14 and started helping with the sound system at a small Atlanta church. He moved to Blue Ridge and was a DJ at the local radio station his junior and seniors high school years. After serving in the Army, he returned to Blue Ridge and has been working in local theatres and as a DJ at many local functions.

**ROBERT JOHNSON**, retired theatre teacher/director (Niles West High School, Skokie, IL), has served on the Educational Theatre Association's Board of Directors three times, including positions of Vice President and President. He created and directed the first three National Cast Productions for Thespian Festival. The Robert L. Johnson/Hector S. Cruz foundation awards scholarships to graduates who are pursuing careers in theatre.

**MARK KAUFMANN** is an award winning playwright/director/teacher. His plays include *The End of Civilization As We Know It* and *Betsy's Inconvenient Garden*. He has directed in Chicago, L.A., San Francisco and recently the musical, *Coco*, at the York Theatre in New York City. A graduate of Northwestern University, Mark studied at the Stella Adler Academy and HB School in NYC.

**JENNIFER KELLY**, writer/director/producer, Jennifer received her Masters Degree from Colorado Christian University and spent ten years directing an internationally acclaimed theatre program. Jennifer also served as Executive Director of Jennifer Kelley Productions and the Lemon Bay Performing Arts Academy, and most recently wrote, directed, and produced an original flying show, *Beautiful*, in partnership with Jason Whicker performed in southwest Florida.

**SANDY LEVITT** is a member of the Hall Of Fame for both EdTA and Mississippi State. His professional career included acting, singing, dancing, and stage/company managing. The Associate Producer of *Fanny And Sophie* (Florida) and *Broadway Jukebox* (New York), Mr. Levitt was a leading actor in New York City's Yiddish Theater. He is the President of Manhattan Tour & Travel.

**ED LINDERMAN** has the distinction of having worked On and Off-Broadway in 3 capacities: performer; composer/author (*Something's Afoot*, *Broadway Jukebox*); and musical director (*Godspell*, *Scrambled Feet*, *The Upstairs At The Downstairs*). His career began at Chicago's *Second City* and he was described in the *New York Daily News* as "a walking encyclopedia of the hidden treasures of the Broadway Musical."

**TOM MARQUARDT** has had several plays produced, including *Pigtale*, *The Baseball Prayer* and *Laura, A Life On The Prairie*.

**DENNIS MAULDEN** has been Resident Scenic Designer for Flat Rock Playhouse since 1985. Head of the Design Program in Theatre at the University of Florida and at the University of South Carolina, Maulden has designed standard and classical repertory works, experimental projects, new plays, operas, and musicals in regional and university theatres. He is a member of United Scenic Artists.

**AMY MORROW** Holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Valdosta State University and has studied Commedia dell'Arte with Antonio Fava at *Ars Comica* in Reggio nell'Emilia, Italy. She is a resident artist at *Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta* along with many other projects. To learn more, visit her site at [www.amymorrow.net](http://www.amymorrow.net).

**JENNIFER CARROLL MORRIS** is a workshop clinician and choreographer for AIDA. Recently married, she is the new drama/dance teacher at Putnam County High School. She has trained in tap, ballet, modern, hip-hop and musical theatre dance. She holds a Bachelors degree in Theatre Education from Columbus State University and a Masters in Integrated Teaching Through Fine Arts from Lesley University.

**BILL MUÑOZ** is a professional Union actor, stage manager and fight choreographer. He has worked on stage and on camera in various commercials, industrials and even on a Spanish soap! His stage combat credits include *Macbeth*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *West Side Story*, *Peter Pan*, *Miracle Worker*. Bill is on staff at Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of NC.

**MARY LOU NEWCOTT** began her theatre career first as an actress and then as director and acting teacher. Teaching credits have included Emory University, Georgia State, Hartwick College, and Horizon Theatre. Directing credits include Seaside Rep and Academe of the Oaks.

**ROSEMARY NEWCOTT** is an Artistic Director at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. She directs three plays for youth and families, the annual A CHRISTMAS CAROL and The High School Collision Project. Awards include the Princess Grace Foundation Award, the PBA Lexus Leader and Best Director by the AJC, the GTC Distinguished Career Award and the 2010 Suzi Spirit Award.

**JOE NORTON** has been an actor, playwright and producer in New York, and is currently the Director of Education and Outreach for *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS*. Joe served on the EdTA board from 2000 – 09. The recipient of the HIV/AIDS Partnership's Red Ribbon Leadership Award, EdTA's President's Award, and Standing Ovation Award, his play, *School Night*, is published through Playscripts.

**XYLINA NUCKLES**, a Georgia Honor Thespian, attended Stephens College earning her BFA performing in *Into the Woods*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Christmas Carol*, *Once on this Island* and many others. Xylina serves as the music director at McGinnis Woods, director of Standing Ovation Performing Arts enrichment program, and the Musical Theatre Director at North Atlanta Dance Theatre in John's Creek.

**GABE NUNNALLY** is the Vice President of Hall Associates Flying Effects and an accomplished ground rigger. As one of the company's leaders, she has served the entertainment industry for more than a decade. Gabe uses her experience to ensure that the company is moving in the right direction and travels to ensure the company's name is brought to its brightest light.

**TRACY NUNNALLY** is a tenured Associate Professor at Northern Illinois University - School of Theatre and Dance, the Technical Director, the Head of the Design and Technology Area, and Head of the Graduate Theatre Technology Program. Owner and President of Hall Flying Effects, Tracy is an ETCP Certified Rigger in theatre and arena rigging, an ETCP Recognized Trainer and Employer.

**ALLEN O'REILLY** is Georgia Shakespeare's Education Director and an Associate Artist. He has directed The High School Tour at Georgia Shakespeare since 1994, and he wrote and directed *Miguel's Shakespearean Adventure!* a bi-lingual elementary touring production. As an actor, he has worked at most of Atlanta's Theatres, most notably with Marietta's Theatre in The Square and The Alliance Children's Theatre.

**BRIAN O'SULLIVAN** is the Director of Amateur Licensing for Music Theatre International, the world's leader in the theatrical licensing industry. A former Thespian himself, he is delighted to be asked back once again to adjudicate at the Georgia Thespian Conference.

**IYA OLORI ORIYOMI** (Mama Yeye): current credits for 2011 include Atlanta's Dance Africa, National Black Arts Festival, MalcolmX Festival, Ayoka Dance Concert, Jazz on Tap, Alliance Theatre Camp, Youth Creates '11, Camp, AWP's Camp Destiny. She provides education with dance, sekere workshops. She *LOVES* sharing West African dance, Afro Caribbean dance, movement, culture, percussion, songs and theatre.

**AARON PIERCE** is a former GA Thespian. Aaron has studied performance arts, acting, juggling, unicycling, and circus skills. He has performed for ten years with Dr. Tom's Semi-Silent Theatre throughout the southeast. He has also worked briefly with The Big Apple Circus. He is now an award winning flair bartender, and works with Charleston Flair Bartenders in Charleston, SC.

**TOM PIERCE** studied mime, acting, and children's theater at Florida State University. He has his own mime company (Dr. Tom's Semi-Silent Theater) and has performed in almost every state. Tom has acted in film, commercials, and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He is also a clown (Dr. Gizmo) with the Big Apple Circus Clown Care in Atlanta.

**PALMER BOOTH RAMSAY** is a graduate of Gainesville High School where she now enjoys choreographing musicals. Over the past 6 years she has choreographed plays such as *Lil' Abner*, *West Side Story*, *Footloose*, and *Hairspray*. She majored in Arts Management with concentration in Dance at Hollins University. She currently works as an Event Manager planning events all over the world.

**KARL ROGERS** has been active in northeast Florida's theatre community for thirty years. Recently featured as a guest soloist for the Jacksonville Men's Chorus' inaugural concert, he has also appeared with the River City Men's Chorus, The Orange Park Chorale, and the Jacksonville Pops Orchestra. Karl is excited to spend this weekend with the remarkably talented students of Georgia.

**DR. MARY SCHUTTLE** is the Head of Theatre Education at the University of Northern Colorado. She chaired the Colorado Theatre Standards committee, is on the Board of Colorado Thespians, and served at President of EdTA. Before her appointment at UNC, she taught high school theatre for ten years. She is a 2005 inductee to the EdTA Hall of Fame.

**HENRY SCOTT** holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. He teaches in the Department of Theatre, Performance Studies and Dance at Kennesaw State University. Henry also works as a freelance director/choreographer and yoga instructor. As a performer, Henry has toured the United States, Canada and Europe, and performed in the Broadway revival of *GREASE!*

**LEIGH ANN SHAW** has been performing, musically directing, accompanying and arranging throughout the metro area professionally for fifteen years. With a focus on non-profit theaters and education, Leigh Ann is a fixture in many metro Atlanta high schools where she works as a musical director, accompanist and consultant. She is the Assistant Musical Director for the 2012 Shuler Hensley Awards.

**SCOTT SPRADLIN** has taught at Thespian Conference for 10 years. He is a church music director, private voice teacher and occasional college voice instructor. Spradlin sings in two bands, leads four choirs, and leads 2-4 musicals a year.

**LESLIE LAWRENCE SPRADLIN** is a local artist that got her start at Ga. Thespian Conference in 1990 as a student and then as a guest artist. She studied for two years with the world's greatest mime, Marcel Marceau. It is her pleasure to present her knowledge of Mime with the next generation of Thespians.

**DON STALLINGS** is a popular commercial, television, improvisational actor, and stand up comedian. He is an experienced stage combat choreographer receiving his training with the Society Of American Fight Directors. Don is a theatre instructor, producer, director and editor who produces independent and corporate projects. Don and his wife Lynn direct The Atlanta Workshop Players School and Performing Arts Camp.

**LYNN STALLINGS** is the founder and Executive Director of THE ATLANTA WORKSHOP PLAYERS. AWP's Motto is KIDS CHANGING THE WORLD ONE AUDIENCE AT A TIME. Lynn is a published playwright producing 23 original musicals as well as directing and choreographing commercials and educational television projects. Lynn has been instrumental in launching many careers in TV/Film, and on Broadway.

**KIMBERLY STAPLES** is never happier than when surrounded by fabric! She holds an MA in Directing from Roosevelt University and teaches at Buford High School. She believes that costuming and lighting make a show!

**FRANK STEWART** holds a masters in acting from Northwestern University. Working in Los Angeles for the past 30 years as a professional actor and as an entertainment attorney, he has represented motion picture, television and theatre artists and producers. He has taught with Georgia's Governors Honors Program and for Thespians at state and International Festivals for over thirty years.

**BECCA TAUBEL** currently lives in Chicago, IL where she is graduate of The Second City Conservatory and iO training centers. Her workshop will detail how to be a successful improviser on and off the stage. Look forward to learning the key elements and skills to Chicago style long form improvisation.

**DAVID TURNER** is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at CSU, teaching Acting, Voice and Movement. A Designated Lessac (Voice & Body) Practitioner, David holds an MFA in Acting (SMU) and a BA in Theatre (FSU). David has acted with such theatres as: Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Ft. Worth Shakespeare Festival, Undermain Theatre, Michael Chekhov Theatre Company and Watertower Theatre.

**ABBIE VAN NOSTRAND** is Director of Marketing and Acquisitions for Samuel French, Inc. She has been with the company for 27 years now serving on its Board of Directors and President of its subsidiary Baker's Plays. Abbie is a member of the Outer Critics Circle and serves on the Board of New Dramatists and the Darien Arts Center in Connecticut.

**JASON WHICKER**, Aerial Choreographer and Flying Director, is a graduate of Ball State University and has worked on large scale productions such as *American Idiot*, *Fame Becomes Me*, *Angels: The Musicals*. Jason has created works of flying art for Cisco Systems, Wrigley's 5 Gum, The 26<sup>th</sup> South East Asia Games in Indonesia, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation Celebration.

**JEFF WHITING** Broadway: *HAIR* (Associate Director), *THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS* (Associate Director/Choreographer), *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* (Assistant Choreographer), *WICKED* (Associate Director - 5th Anniv.) *HAPPINESS* (Assistant Director/Choreographer). LONDON: *JERSEY BOYS* (Assistant Choreographer). NATIONAL TOURS: *THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS* (Director/Choreographer), *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* (Director), *HAIRSPRAY* (Associate Director), *THE PRODUCERS* (Associate Director). Jeff is also a resident member of the creative staff for WALT DISNEY ENTERTAINMENT.

**JULIE WOFFINGTON** is the Executive Director of the Educational Theatre Association. She has a lifelong involvement in theatre and twenty years of business, marketing, and management experience. She is active in Cincinnati community theatre as an actor, director, and producer, and serves on the board of trustees of the Cincinnati Arts Association.