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August 24-September 23, 2023

BRADFORD T. KENNEY, Executive Artistic Director **DEBORAH WARREN**, Managing Director

AND THE ARTISTIC CIRCLE

# ODE

# RACHEL WAGSTAFF and DUNCAN ABEL

## DAN BROWN

Starrina

#### MICHAEL URIE **HANNAH CRUZ**

KATYA COLLAZO TARIK LOWE

THURSDAY FARRAR **GLENN MORIZIO** 

HOWARD KAYE

MARISSA PARNESS DAVID T. PATTERSON MICHAEL LIEBHAUSER JENNIFER REGAN

AND

#### CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY

SIR LEIGH TEABING

Scenic & Costume Design DAVID WOODHFAD Original UK Composition & Sound

BEN & MAX RINGHAM

Associate Director

PHOEBE BROOKS

Sound Design

KEVIN HEARD

Associate Movement Director

ESOSA OVIASU

Casting ARC Mark Brandon, CSA & Jarret Reiche

> Producing Director BRIAN J. SWASEY

Original UK Lighting Design LIZZIE POWELL

> Wig/Hair & Makeup Design ROXANNE DE LUNA

Associate Scenic Design

NATE BERTONE Production Stage Manager DANIEL EVERETT

Production Manager

AMANDA WOODWARD Director

Lighting Design RICHARD LATTA

Original UK Movement Director TOM JACKSON GREAVES SORDELET, INC., RICK SORDELET

Associate Lighting Design

ALEX FĚTCHKO

JOSH KOLB

Fight

Projection Design

ANDRŻEJ GOULDING

Projection Supervisor BRAD PETERSON

Assistant Stage Manager MELANIE T. MÖRGAN

Technical Director GEOF DOLAN

#### EIGH TONEY

Based on the Original Direction by

#### **LUKE SHEPPARD**

THE DA VINCI CODE is presented through special arrangement with Simon Friend Entertainment.

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### FROM THE EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As Fall descends upon the Seacoast, we dive into the mysteries of our rich human history, long held myths and legends, and some of civilization's strongest beliefs. As the first audiences in America, you are about to experience firsthand the work of some amazing performers and artisans who have painstakingly brought the best selling novel, The Da Vinci Code, to life onstage. Author and Exeter, NH native, Dan Brown is close to our friends and family here at The Playhouse and we are very proud to introduce this iconic story to the American stage. Continuing our commitment to producing new works, we are thrilled to share this exceptional story with you.



Photo by Julia Russell

Though it's hard to believe we're rapidly nearing the end of another mainstage season, our final show gathers some of theatre's greatest musical comedians on one stage to deliver TOOTSIE THE NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL. In addition to the aforementioned return of TV and Playhouse legend Sally Struthers, we're proud to announce that SPAMALOT'S Jen Cody and THE NUTTY PROFESSOR himself Dan DeLuca are also joining the cast for this bold and bawdy Regional Premiere. Get your tickets now to join in on the fun.

When The Playhouse closes for the winter, the magic lives on at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Bring your family and celebrate the love of the season with Rodgers & Hammerstein's THE SOUND OF MUSIC. The Von Trapp family created a beautiful life for themselves here in northern New England and celebrating their story is the perfect holiday gift for Seacoast and Ogunquit audiences of all ages.

Planning for next season is already underway and you can be part of it all by responding to the post-show audience survey you'll receive by email. Be sure to let us know the shows you are most interested in seeing. Early Bird discount savings on 2024 Season Passes will be available to you thru October 31. Sales begin with the first performance of TOOTSIE. Lock in your favorite performance days, times, and seat locations for all of next season's fun and excitement, before the season is even announced!

Enjoy THE DA VINICI CODE and thank you for the love and support you show us all year long. While other regional theaters may struggle and fold, you are helping to keep YOUR Ogunquit Playhouse thriving!

Bradford T. Kenney Executive Artistic Director

## FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

We are thrilled that you have joined us for another season of masterful theatre at Ogunquit Playhouse.

You are about to experience one of – if not THE – most masterful theatrical experiences with our production of THE DA VINCI CODE. Distilling a book of this size down to 1 hour and 45 minutes of stage magic was no easy feat. I hope what this creative team has achieved will thrill you as much as it has me.

We truly appreciate Ogunquit audiences' passion for the grand

tradition of musical theatre and this season has only cemented that fact with our productions of BEAUTIFUL, SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, and ON YOUR FEET! And while we mindfully program each season to deliver these crowd pleasers, we also have a commitment to producing one show that pushes the boundaries and grows the art of modern American theatre.

As we head into the planning phase for 2024, we will continue to leverage those strengths with big bold modern musicals, callbacks to what made classic musical theatre so fantastic, and brand new theatrical experiences. While the show titles won't be announced until mid-January, you will be able to purchase Early Bird Season Passes at a reduced rate when we open TOOTSIE.

Ticket sales only account for a portion of the revenue needed to sustain our yearly operating budget. Which is why I urge you to keep an eye out for the launch of our Year-End Appeal in September. All donations received during this time fund our Playhouse Arts Academy, Children's Theatre programming, and scholarships offered to students who wouldn't otherwise have the financial means to benefit from the power of theatre education. The creative stars of tomorrow's theatre, film, and television industries are grown here and in regional theaters around the country. Your generosity gives their creativity wings.

We thank you for continuing to support the work of Ogunquit Playhouse in so many ways. You are the reason we have long been of the country's most beloved theatre destinations!

Deborah Warren Managing Director



Funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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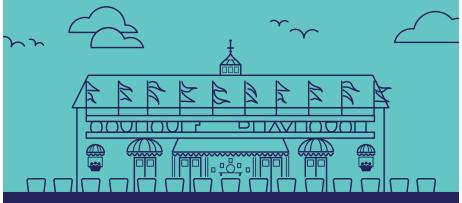
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#### SPECIAL THANKS

Ogunquit Playhouse gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following: TramutoPorter Foundation for Assisted Listening Devices



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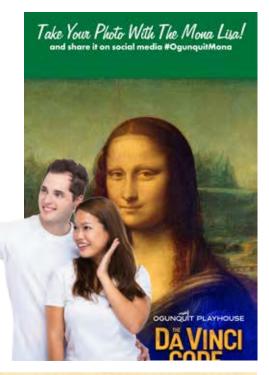
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OGUNQUİT PLAYHOÙSE







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Listen to the sounds of live local acoustic artists and cool off with a large iced cold brew!

We roast our beans daily to give you the freshest cup of coffee in town!





#### **ACT I**

Scene 1 - Paris Lecture Hall

Scene 2 – Paris Silas's Room, Opus Dei

Scene 3 – Paris The Louvre, Grand Gallery

Scene 4 - Paris The Church of Saint-Sulpice

Scene 5 - Paris The Louvre, Public Bathroom

Scene 6 - Paris The Church of Saint-Sulpice

Scene 7 – Paris The Louvre, Salle des Etats

Scene 8 – Paris, Rue Haxo, Depository Bank

Scene 9 - Paris Silas's Room, Opus Dei, and Versailles, Teabing's Château

Scene 10 - Versailles Teabing's Château

Scene 11 - France Le Bourget Airport

#### **ACT II**

Scene 1 – Over The English Channel Teabing's Private Jet

Scene 2 - London, England Temple Church

Scene 3 – London, Busy Street and Opus Dei, London Branch

Scene 4 – London Westminster Abbey

**Scene 5** – London The Grounds of Westminster Abbey

Scene 6 - Scotland Rosslyn Chapel

Scene 7 - Scotland Rosslyn Chapel Grounds and Paris, Near The Louvre



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MICHAEL URIE



HANNAH CRUZ



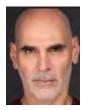
CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY



KATYA COLLAZO



THURSDAY FARRAR



HOWARD KAYE



JOSH KOLB



MICHAEL LIEBHAUSER



TARIK LOWE



GLENN MORIZIO



MARISSA PARNESS



DAVID T.
PATTERSON



JENNIFER REGAN



#### **CAST**

Robert Langdon	Michael Urie*
Sophie Neveu	Hannah Cruz*
Sir Leigh Teabing	Charles Shaughnessy*
Silas	David T. Patterson*
Jacques Saunnier	Howard Kaye*
Remy/Police Officer/Philip	Glenn Morizio*
Fache	Tarik Lowe*
Collet & Church Volunteer	Katya Collazo*
Vernet & Docent	Jennifer Regan*
Sister Sandrine/Marie	Thursday Farrar*

Standbys and understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

#### **UNDERSTUDIES**

For Robert Langdon— Michael Liebhauser, Tarik Lowe\*
For Sophie Neveu— Katya Collazo\*
For Sir Leigh Teabing— Howard Kaye\*
For Silas— Glenn Morizio\*
For Sister Sandrine / Marie— Jennifer Regan\*
For Jacques Saunnier / Fache— Josh Kolb
For Remy— Michael Liebhauser, Josh Kolb
For Vernet / Docent / Collet / Church Volunteer— Marissa Parness

#### **ADDITIONAL STAFF**

Music Director	Andrew Bourgoin
Dialect Coach	Barbara Rubin
Fight Captain	Michael Liebhauser
Movement Captain	Katya Collazo*
Light Board Programmer	Ethan Sepa
Projection Technician	Derek Jones
Projection Consultant	Dan Trenchard
Production Assistants	William Baeszler, Olivia Tymon

<sup>\*</sup> Member of Actors Equity Association



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, pagers and watches.



**CAST** 

MICHAEL URIE (Robert Langdon) Broadway: Spamalot (Fall 2023), Chicken & Biscuits, Grand Horizons, Torch Song, How To Succeed in Business. Off Broadway/ New York: Buyer & Cellar (originated), The Government Inspector, Angels in America, The Temperamentals, A Bright Room Called Day, The Cherry Orchard, Obie, Drama Desk, and Lucille Lortel award-winner. Directed Drew Droege's Bright Colors and Bold Patterns (BroadwayHD). Co-founded and co-produces Pride Plays, an LGBTQIA+ theater festival. TV: Shrinking (Apple TV+); Krapopolis (FOX); Younger, The Good Fight (Paramount Plus); Ugly Betty, Modern Family (ABC); The Good Wife (CBS); Hot in Cleveland (TV Land). Film: Maestro (2023), Goodrich (2023), Single All The Way (Netflix), Swan Song, Lavender, Decoy Bride, Beverly Hills Chihuahua, He's Way More Famous Than You (also directed).

HANNAH CRUZ (Sophie Neveu) is thrilled to return to Ogunquit Playhouse. OP: Young Frankenstein (Inga). Off-Broadway: Only Gold (Camille, MCC), SUFFS (Ruza, The Public). Nat'l Tour: Hamilton (Eliza, IRNE Award Best Actress), Bullets over Broadway (Ellen). Upcoming: The Connector (Robin, MCC). Love to her family, her tireless team at KMR and Brillstein and to her brilliant Fiancé, Edred. @thisishannahcruz

CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY (Sir Leigh Teabing) is delighted to be returning to Ogunquit Playhouse, where as King Arthur, he has ruled over Monty Python's Spamalot not once... but twice! Broadway: Urinetown (Cladwell). Regional: My Fair Lady (Henry Higgins; North Shore Music Theatre, Theatre By The Sea), La Cage aux Folles (Georges, North Shore Music Theatre), 42nd Street (Julian Marsh, Tempe Center For The Arts), A Christmas Carol (Scrooge, The Palace Theatre). TV: The Nanny (Max Sheffield, CBS), Days of Our Lives (Shane Donovan, NBC), General Hospital (Alistair Dutton, Victor Cassadine; ABC), Mad Men (St. John Powell, AMC), The Magicians (Christopher Plover, SyFy), The Winchesters (Porter Hobbes, CW), Law & Order: SVU (Martin Trenway, NBC), NCIS:

New York (Tom Christensen, CBS), Stargate SG-1 (Alec Coulson, SyFy). Voice Over: Stanley (Dennis the Goldfish, Emmy Award). @charlesshaughnessy

COLLAZO KATYA (Collet/Church Volunteer: u/s Sophie) is delighted to make her Ogunquit Playhouse debut. Off-Broadway: Mrs. Warren's Profession (Gingold Theatrical Group). Regional: No Child (Kitchen Theatre), Nina Simone: Four Women (Arizona Theatre), Possessing Harriet (Franklin Stage), One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Playhouse on Park), The Resolute (Wyoming Theater Festival), The Winter's Tale (South Dakota Shakespeare Festival). TV: Special Ops: Lioness (Paramount+), The Blacklist (NBC), Dietland (AMC). Katya is the voice and spokesperson for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island. Thank you to Erick and my family. katyacollazo.com

THURSDAY FARRAR (Sister Sandrine/ Marie) is most honored to be making her Ogunquit Playhouse debut. Broadway: Aida, Parade, Once Upon a Mattress. Off-Broadway: Love & Science (NY City Center), The Bandaged Place (Roundabout), Regrets (MTC), St. Louis Woman, Golden Boy (NYCity Center), Nat'l Tours: Flashdance, Les Misérables, Carousel. Regional: First Wives Club (Old Globe), Merrily We Roll Along (Kennedy Center), Harmony (La Jolla Playhouse), Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (Arrow Rock), To Kill a Mockingbird (Weston Playhouse). Television: PokerFace (Peacock), Manifest (Netflix), FBI (CBS), For Life (ABC), Modern Love (Amazon Prime), Search Party (Max), Gotham (Fox), Bull (CBS), The Blacklist (NBC), The Americans (FX), Ugly Betty (ABC). Film: Brian Banks Movie, Holiday in Harlem (Hallmark), Across The Tracks (Amazon). Recordings: You Oughta Be On Broadway. Graduate of the American Musical & Dramatic Academy. Awards: Audelco, Drama~Logue, New Hampshire Theater. thursdayfarrar.com

**HOWARD KAYE** (Jacques Saniere: u/s Teabing) is pleased to make his OP debut with this innovative and new production. Broadway: Miss Saigon (Broadway Theater),

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The Visit (Ambassador Theater). NYC: Skittles Commercial: The Musical, Silence! The Musical. Nat'l Tour: Mamma Mia. Regional: Dracula (Actors Theater of Louisville), Peter and the Starcatcher (Slank, Pioneer Theater), Intimate Apparel (Mr. Marks, Merrimack Rep), Barefoot in the Park (Victor Velasco, Gulfshore Playhouse), Two Gentleman of Verona (Antonio, Baltimore Center Stage), A Christmas Carol (Jacob Marley, Westport Playhouse); Cincinnati Playhouse, Long Wharf, Alliance, Florida Studio, Goodspeed, Berkshire Theater Festival, Alabama Theater Festival, Syracuse Stage. Juilliard graduate.

JOSH KOLB (u/s Jacques Sauniere/Fache/Remy) is pleased to make his debut at the Ogunquit Playhouse. Off-Broadway: That Chemistry Show (Lead Demonstrator) Regional: South Pacific (Yeoman Herbert Quale, Maltz Jupiter Theater), A Christmas Carol (Ebenezer Scrooge, Actor's Playhouse). NYC: It Shoulda Been You (Marty Kauffman, Gallery Players), Muscle Bears: The Musical (Swing/Assistant Director/Stage Manager). Other Credits include: Beauty and the Beast (Maurice, Disney Cruise Line), Mary

Poppins (Pierrot Award Best Male in a Musical, Bert), Hunchback of Notre Dame, Company, The Full Monty, The Sweet Smell of Success, amongst others. Josh would like to thank this incredible cast and crew, the wonderful teams at ATB and ARC and a special thanks to Jonah, Paul and Cat.

MICHAEL LIEBHAUSER (u/s Robert Langdon/Remy) is very happy to be joining Ogunquit Playhouse for the first time. Regional: The Scarlet Pimpernel (Hal, The John W. Engeman Theater), Antony and Cleopatra (Antony, Theater at Monmouth), Comedy of Errors (Antipholus of Syracuse/Ephesus, Theater at Monmouth), The Play That Goes Wrong (Chris, Lyric Stage Company of Boston), Describe the Night (Isaac Babel, The Sandra-Feinstein Gamm). (Czolgosz, The Sandra-Feinstein Gamm), The Night Watch (Cole/Fraser, The Sandra-Feinstein Gamm), Incognito (Man 1, The Sandra-Feinstien Gamm), Waiting for Lefty (Dr. Benjamin, Quintessence Repertory Theater), The Cure at Troy (Chorus, Quintessence Repertory Theater), King Lear (Duke of Albany, Quintessence Repertory Theater),



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TARIK LOWE (Fache: u/s Robert Langdon) is an actor and writer known for his versatility and dramatic depth. He arrives in Ogunquit fresh off the Tony Award-winning Broadway National Tour of A Soldier's Play, where he played Peterson, a role originated by Denzel Washington. Film: Music of the Heart, starring Meryl Streep; Whiplash; The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete; Pimp; and Supporting Characters (co-writer and star). Television: Major Crimes (TNT), Blindspot (NBC), Outsiders (WGN), Law & Order (NBC), Blue Bloods (CBS).

GLENN MORIZIO (Remy/Philip: u/s Silas) is an Italian-Taiwanese actor based in NYC. Most recently he finished shooting two seasons of Starz's Ghost, a spin-off of their hit show Power. He can be seen in Hulu's Wu-Tang: An American Saga, HBO's Succession, as well as Lifetime's Death Saved My Life. Select theatre credits include the world premiere of On That Day in Amsterdam at 59e59 with Primary Stages, DCPA's Vietgone and Ma-Yi Theatre Company's The Orphan of Zhao. Glenn attended Fordham University's Theatre program and was a standout at the 2019 ABC+Disney Discovery Showcase. Much love to his team at TalentWorks!

MARISSA PARNESS (u/s Vernet/Docent/Collet/Church Volunteer) is thrilled to be making her Ogunquit Playhouse debut and be part of this exciting premiere. Nat'l Tour: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Trixie; u/s Mama). Regional: Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey u/s, North Shore Music Theatre), Hansel and Gretel (Witch, Actor's Playhouse). New York: Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: A Wholly Remarkable Immersive Experience (CASA 51), A Midsummer Night's Dream (The Cell/Theatre for a New City), A Brief History

of the Soviet Union (Dorothy Strelsin Theatre). Marissa has narrated over 100 audiobooks on Audible. Many thanks to Tiera and the team at FSE, everyone at ARC casting, and my love, Guy. For Joe, always, and my Brookipoo. @catladylately

DAVID T. PATTERSON (Silas) is thrilled to make his Ogunquit Playhouse debut with this American Premiere! Broadway: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Nick u/s), Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Major Domo, The Booth Theatre). Off-Broadway: Picnic (Hal), Come Back Little Sheba (Turk, The Transport Group). Regional: Clyde's (Jason, Theater Works); Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors (Dracula, Capital Rep); Meteor Shower (Gerald, Theatre Woarkshop of Nantucket); Noises Off (Freddie, Cape Playhouse); Sacred Valley (Brian, Powerhouse Theater): Third (Woodson) Bull III, Hangar Theater); Spamalot (Sir Gallahad), Guys and Dolls (Sky Masterson, Weathervane Playhouse). TV: FBI (CBS), Blue Bloods (CBS), Only Murders in The Building (Hulu), East New York (CBS), The Gilded Age (HBO), Law & Order (NBC), The Path (Hulu), Instinct (CBS). Graduate of Carnegie Mellon University.

JENNIFER REGAN (Vernet: u/s Sister Sandrine/Marie) is delighted to be making her first appearance at Ogunquit Playhouse. Broadway: Born Yesterday (Helen), Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Martha standby). West End: The Lady from Dubuque (Carol, Royal Haymarket). Off-Broadway: Straight Line Crazy (The Shed), How I Learned to Drive (Second Stage), Buffalo Gal (Primary Stages), Pig Farm (Roundabout). Regional: Sweat (Tracy, Huntington Theater); Girls (Yale Rep); An Octoroon and Troublemaker (Berkeley Rep); Twelfth Night (Hartford Stage); Lost in Yonkers, Resurrection Blues, The Trojan Women (Old Globe). TV: The Good Nurse (Netflix); The Heartshe Holler, Neon Joe: Werewolf Hunter (Adult Swim); Law & Order: SVU (NBC), FBI: Most Wanted (CBS), God Friended Me (CBS), Elementary (CBS), Blindspot (NBC), Happyish (Showtime). Film: The Humbling, My Dead Boyfriend, The Normals, The Winning Season.



THE NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL



REGIONAL PREMIERE WITH SALLY STRUTHERS SEP 28-OCT 29

OGUNQUIT PLAYHOUSE



#### CREATIVE TEAM

RACHEL WAGSTAFF (Writer) the book for multi-award winning musical, Flowers for Mrs Harris (Sheffield Theatres 2016, Chichester Festival Theatre 2018, opening at Riverside Studios, London, October 2023). Rachel adapted Sebastian Faulks' novel Birdsong (West End 2009-2010, four UK tours and an award-winning online release in 2020). Rachel's adapted Agatha Christie's The Mirror Crack'd (UK tour 2019, NCPA Mumbai 2020, UK tour 2022-2024). With Duncan Abel, Rachel adapted Paula Hawkins' The Girl on the Train (UK tour and West End 2019) and Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code (UK tour 2022). Rachel co-wrote the musical Moonshadow with Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), (Princess Theatre Melbourne 2012) and the book for original musical Only the Brave (Wales Millennium Centre 2016). For Radio Four, Rachel adapted Sebastian Faulks' novel The Girl at the Lion d'Or (fivepart series, Woman's Hour, 2009) and afternoon play When I Lost You, co-written with Duncan Abel (2013).

**DUNCAN ABEL** (Writer) co-adapted Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code which made its UK debut in 2022. He co-adapted Paula Hawkins's The Girl on the Train, which transferred to London's West End following a successful UK tour and has performed internationally. He has written for the BBC, Sing London and his short fiction has appeared in numerous literary anthologies; most recently Comma Press. Duncan Abel is currently under commission to several UK independent theatre producers.

**DAN BROWN** (Author) has written numerous #1 bestsellers, including The Da Vinci Code, which has become one of the bestselling novels of all time as well as the subject of intellectual debate among readers and scholars. Brown's novels have been published worldwide in 56 languages with over 200 Million copies in print.

In 2005, Brown was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by TIME Magazine, whose editors credited him with "keeping the publishing industry afloat; renewed interest in Leonardo da Vinci and

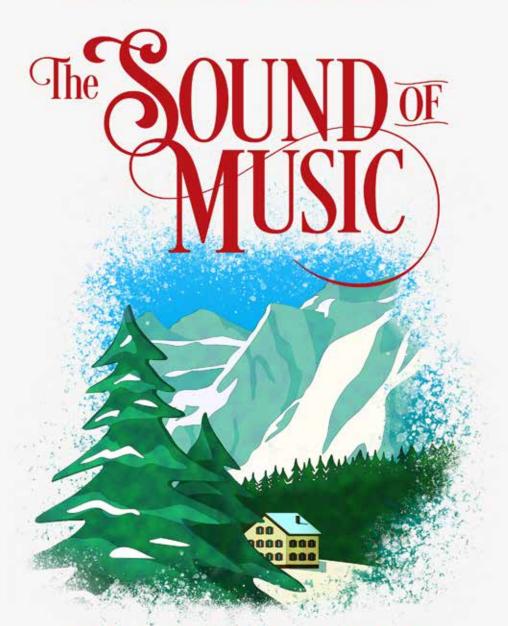
early Christian history; spiking tourism to Paris and Rome; a growing membership in secret societies; the ire of Cardinals in Rome; eight books denying the claims of the novel and seven guides to read along with it; a flood of historical thrillers; and a major motion picture franchise."

The son of a mathematics teacher and a church organist, Brown was raised on a prep school campus where he developed a fascination with the paradoxical interplay between science and religion. These themes eventually formed the backdrop for his books. Brown is a graduate of Amherst College and Phillips Exeter Academy, where he later returned to teach English before focusing his attention full time to writing. He lives in New England with his yellow lab, Winston.

**LEIGH TONEY** (Director) Credits: The Trial of Josie K (Unicorn Theatre), Under My Skin (Pegasus Theatre). She has worked extensively with young people including directing Shooting Truth (National Theatre) as part of NT Connections. As Associate Director; Life of Pi (West End + UK & Ireland Tour); The Mirror and the Light (West End); the RSC UK and International tour of Measure for Measure; Murder for Two (The Other Palace/Watermill/UK tour); The Moderate Soprano (West End); Beowulf (Unicorn Theatre); Working (Southwark Playhouse). As Assistant Director productions include Taming of the Shrew (RSC/UK tour); The Borrowers (Watermill): The Cardinal (Southwark Playhouse); Peter and the Starcatcher (Royal and Derngate); Eliza and the Wild Swans (Bike Shed Theatre). Leigh is a Leverhulme Arts Scholar and recipient of the JMK Leverhulme Regional Assistant Director Bursary and MGC Futures Bursary.

LUKE SHEPPARD (Original Director) & Juliet (West End, Toronto, Broadway, Australia); In Dreams (Leeds Playhouse/Toronto); My Son's A Queer But What Can You Do? (West End, Turbine Theatre & Edinburgh Fringe); The Da Vinci Code (UK Tour); What's New Pussycat? (Birmingham Rep); Rent, Spring Awakening (Hope Mill Theatre); The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4: The Musical (West

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End, Menier Chocolate Factory & Leicester Curve); Billionaire Boy (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton); In The Heights (Kings Cross Theatre & Southwark Playhouse); Newsies (Arts Ed); Peter And The Starcatcher (Royal & Derngate); Night Must Fall (Salisbury Playhouse & UK Tour); Stig Of The Dump (UK Tour); Oliver! (Watermill Theatre); Working; Casa Valentina; Next Fall (Southwark Playhouse); Jet Set Go (Jermyn Street & Theatre 503).

**DAVID WOODHEAD** (Scenic and Costume Design) UK Theatre: Curtains (West End & UK Tour), Nativity! (Hammersmith Apollo & UK Tour), Mrs Warren's Profession (Theatre Royal Bath), The Da Vinci Code (UK Tour), Rent (Hope Mill Theatre); Dial M For Murder (UK Tour), Peter And The Starcatcher (Royal & Derngate), Gaslight; Strangers on a Train (ATG UK Tours). International: Titanic (Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto, European Tour & China Tour); Gaslight (Ed Mirvish Theatre, Toronto); Cornelius, Café Society Swing (59E59 New York); The Truth (Zorlu Centre, Istanbul). David trained in Theatre & Performance Design at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, graduating with first class honours. He was a finalist in the Linbury Prize for Stage Design. David's designs for Titanic won the Off-West End Award for Best Designer, alongside nominations for the BroadwayWorld Award for Best Set & Costume Design and the Canadian Dora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design.

LIZZIE POWELL (Original UK Lighting Design) Previous lighting designs include: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Mountaintop, Mother Courage, Anna Karenina, The Mighty Walzer (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Macbeth - An Undoing (Lyceum Theatre); Comedy of Errors, Endgame, The Libertine (Citizens Theatre); James IV, What Girls are Made Of, (Raw Material); Falstaff (Scottish Opera/ Santa Fe Opera); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Scottish Opera); King John, Macbeth (RSC); Avalanche: A Love Story (Barbican / Sydney Theatre Company); The Da Vinci Code, Dial M for Murder (Simon Friend Productions): Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (West End / National Theatre Scotland); Thrown, Orphans,

Red Dust Road, Adam, Knives in Hens, Venus As A Boy (National Theatre of Scotland); Victory Condition, B, Human Animals, Violence and Son (Royal Court Theatre); Our Town (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); Romeo & Juliet (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield); Cyrano De Bergerac (Citizens Theatre / National Theatre Scotland / Lyceum Theatre).

RICHARD LATTA (Lighting Design) designed the lighting for this season's Beautiful and Singin' In the Rain; last season he designed The Cher Show and Beautiful. Other recent designs include: Elf and Million Dollar Quartet at the Music Hall in Portsmouth and A Chorus Line at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Rich has had a long and varied career lighting Theater, Dance, Opera and Corporate Events, and has designed for the Ogunquit Playhouse since 1987.

ANDRZEJ GOULDING (Projection Design) trained as a Theatre Designer at Central Saint Martins in London. Video Designs include: Sylvia (Old Vic); The Unfriend (West End); & Juliet (Broadway, West End); Message In A Bottle (West End, Tour); Life of Pi (Broadway, West End); Burn (EIF); The Drifters Girl (West End, UK Tour); Room (Stratford East, Toronto); Henry V (Donmar Warehouse, NT Live); People, Places and Things (National Theatre, West End, St Ann's Warehouse); Groundhog Day (Broadway, Old Vic); The Unreturning, also set design (UK Tour); Pressure (West End, UK Tour, Toronto); The Girl On The Train (UK Tour/West End); Coriolanus (Donmar Warehouse, NT Live); 1984 (Northern Ballet, Sadler's Wells); Frost/Nixon (Sheffield Crucible); Silent Night (Philadelphia Opera); Kiki's Delivery Service (Southwark Playhouse). Awards: Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Olivier, UK Theatre, BroadwayWorld, WOS, Theatre and Technology, agoulding.com

BEN & MAX RINGHAM (Original UK Composition & Sound) A Dolls House (Broadway, Drama Desk Best Sound Design Winner 2023, Best Sound Tony Nomination 2023); Prima Facie (West End/Broadway, Best Sound Tony Nomination 2023); Cyrano de Bergerac (West End/BAM NYC, Drama Desk Best Sound Design Winner 2022);



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#### CONTACT

**Rachel Prest** Manager of Individual Giving

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Betrayal (West End/Broadway); Blindness (Donmar, Daryl Roth Theatre, Los Metros Award Winner, Mexico); As Creators: Exemplar (Radio series written for BBC Radio 4); Reflections (2 Temple Place); ANNA (Created for National Theatre, Olivier Award Nomination, Best Sound Design); The Return (Directed for ETT); Curse Of The Crackles (Created for STH); Looking For Nigel (BBC R and D).

**KEVIN HEARD** (Sound Design) is celebrating his 10th season with the Ogunquit Playhouse. Some of his favorites throughout the years include Ragtime (IRNE Award for Best Sound Design), Beautiful: : The Carole King Musical, The Nutty Professor, Young Frankenstein, Cabaret, Kinky Boots, An American in Paris, From Here to Eternity, Mamma Mia, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Million Dollar Quartet and so many more. Kevin's work has been heard on Broadway (as Assoc. Sound Designer) in Good Night, Oscar, The Minutes, All The Way, The Cherry Orchard, and The Country House. Off-Broadway sound designs include Lizard Boy, Judy Gold's Yes, I Can Say That!, ¡Americano!, #DateMe, Einstein's Dreams, The Hello Girls, In & Of Itself, Midnight at The Never Get and many more. Along with dozens of productions at regional theaters across the country, he designed the sound for the International Premieres of Fun Home (starring Lea Salonga), Kinky Boots, and Matilda in Manila, Philippines. Kevin is a lead producer on the internationallyrenowned The Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Show starring drag superstars BenDeLaCreme and Jinkx Monsoon. Love and gratitude to Brad, Brian, and the Playhouse Family for 10 years of fun! @thekevinheard

ROXANNE DE LUNA (Wig/Hair & Makeup Design) is returning for her sixth season at Ogunquit Playhouse, where she's been the Wig and Makeup Shop Supervisor since 2017. OP Wig Design: Singin' in the Rain, Beautiful, Mr. Hollands Opus (World Premiere), The Nutty Professor, The Cher Show, Young Frankenstein, Mystic Pizza (World Premiere), Escape to Margaritaville, Annie, Kinky Boots, Menopause, Cabaret, 42nd Street, Elf the Musical (2018, 2022). Regional: Light It UP! (World Premiere,

Cleveland Playhouse); Kinky Boots (North Carolina Theater); My Fair Lady, Intimate Apparel (Playmakers Repertory); Albert Herring (Miami University). Roxanne was born and raised in El Paso, TX and holds a Bachelors degree from New Mexico State and a Masters degree from University of Cincinnati (Conservatory of Music) in Wig & Makeup Design.

TOM JACKSON GREAVES (Original UK Movement Director) is a multidisciplinary director specializing in movement. He is an Associate Director at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth and an Associate Artist of the Watermill Theatre. Highlights as director include Head Over Heels (Hope Mill Theatre); The Art Of Illusion (Hampstead Theatre); Whistle Down The Wind, The Jungle Book (Watermill Theatre): Brother (Southwark Playhouse); The Neon Shadow (Kneehigh); High Fidelity (Turbine Theatre). Highlights choreographer/movement include The Book Thief (UK Tour): Smoosh (Paraorchestra); My Sons A Queer (WestEnd); Rent (Hope Mill Theatre); Priscilla Queen of the Desert (UK Tour), Amélie (WestEnd/UK Tour); King John (RSC); Fiddler On The Roof (Liverpool Everyman); Boudica, The Two Gentlemen of Verona (Shakespeare's Globe); Sweet Charity, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet (Watermill Theatre); Spring Awakening Mill Theatre/Seoul); The (Southwark Playhouse); The Glass Menagerie (Headlong); Peter and the Starcatcher (Royal and Derngate); LIFT (Soho Theatre).

SORDELET, INC., RICK SORDELET (Fight Director) Rick and his sons Christian and Collin Kelly-Sordelet created www.Sordeletlnc.com, a Native-owned action movement company with 35 years experience. 80 Broadway productions, include The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, Waiting for Godot and Tina National Tour with 52 first-class productions worldwide including Beauty and the Beast in the UK, Shanghai and Sydney. Opera: resident fight/intimacy directors for Santa Fe Opera since 2015, also the MET, La Scala, The Royal Opera House. Film: The Game Plan starring Dwayne Johnson, Dan in Real Life starring Steve Carell, Ben is Back starring Julia Roberts,





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Respect starring Jennifer Hudson, One True Loves starring Simu Lim. Instruction: William Esper Studio, HB Studio, CUNY Harlem, Montclair State and 22 years at Yale School of Drama. Rick is a board member for Red Bull Theater. He and his partner, David Blixt, run a publishing company at www.Sordeletink.com. Sordeletinc on Instagram.

PHOEBE BROOKS (Associate Director) is a theatre creature. Directing credits include The Amazing Doctor She Medicine Show (upcoming), Love Among Dreamers, Charles Ludlam's Der Ring Gott Farblonjet, Jyoti's Bridge, Could This Meeting Have Been An Email, Mary Stuart and Measure for Measure. Associate Director: ROCK MEDEA. Assistant Director: & Juliet, Caucasian Chalk Circle. Programming Director for Spicy Witch Productions. MFA: Columbia University School of the Arts. phoebebrooks.com

ESOSA OVIASU (Associate Movement Director) is thrilled to make his Ogunquit Playhouse debut. He is a multifaceted artist and alumnus of Columbia University. A New York native, Esosa was the original Associate Choreographer for Broadway's &Juliet, Creative Director for The Neighbors, EPIC Motion Dance Company, and a featured performer for the critically acclaimed off-Broadway show, Beyond Babel. Aside from his work in theatre and performance spaces. Esosa actively invests in teaching the next aeneration of dancers. He is a faculty member at dance institutions across New York City, including Broadway Dance Center, Peridance Center, and Movers Bodega. Esosa has unending love for the friends and family who support him. @esosaoviasu

NATE BERTONE (Associate Scenic Design) As a theatrical storyteller, Nate works as a playwright/director, and scenic designer. He designed the 2021 Outdoor Season at OPH, including Spamalot, Escape to Margaritaville, Mystic Pizza, and Young Frankenstein. Recently, he designed Florida Georgia Line's May We All (TPAC Nashville), Mystic Pizza (based on the MGM Film), Ballet Memphis' Dracula, and Joe Iconis' Punk Rock Girl!. Nate's work has also appeared at Disney's D23 Expo, Google, Broadway Sacramento, Ballet Memphis, Oqunquit Playhouse, Bucks

County, North Shore Music Theatre, The Rev, TBTS, and more. As the Associate to Two-Time Tony-Winner Beowulf Boritt: Be More Chill (West End/Japan), Crazy for You (LCT), Superhero (2ST). Assistant to: New York, New York, Freestyle Love Supreme, A Bronx Tale (Broadway). His plays Letters From War and The SeaView Nursing Home for the Newly Deceased are currently in development. Represented by Gersh Agency. Carnegie Mellon Alumnus. Dean's Scholar at Central Saint Martins, London. Nate is a member of The Dramatists Guild and USA829. @natebertone, natebertone.com

**ALEX FETCHKO** (Associate Lighting Design) NYC Based Lighting Designer. Alex works primarily as a Lighting Associate, Supervisor, and Programmer to some of the industry's most talented and silliest designers. 9th summer at Ogunquit Playhouse. Select OPH credits: Billy Elliot, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, White Christmas, Kinky Boots, Anything Goes, Elf, Million Dollar Quartet, Spamalot, Other select credits: Broadway: Chicken and Biscuits; Touring: Camille A Brown & Dancers, "... iphigenia" (esperanza spalding & Wayne Shorter), An Officer and a Gentleman; Off-Broadway: Regarding the Disappearance of Amy (Eduardo Jimenez Pons), Selling Kabul (Playwright's Horizons), Becky Nurse of Salem (Lincoln Center Theatre), Letters From Max (Signature Theatre), Halfway Bitches Go Straight to Heaven (Atlantic Theatre Co), Hurricane Diane (NY Theatre Workshop), Sakina's Restaurant (Audible). Broadbend Arkansas (Transport Group); The Sickness (Varda Productions); Regional: Ogunquit Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Glimmerglass Festival, McCarter Theatre Center, Commonwealth Shakespeare Co, Huntington Theatre Co. www.alexfetchko.com

**BRAD PETERSON** (Projection Supervisor) is a New York based video and projection designer. Select designs include Cats (Broadway Revival); Fish in the Dark (Broadway); Broadway Bounty Hunter (Off-Broadway); If I Forget (Roundabout); Sing Street (The Huntington); El Sitt (Riyadh Festival, Saudi Arabia); Lion...Witch...Wardrobe, Carousel, and A Little Night Music (Stratford

Festival); Wonderland, The Little Mermaid, and Tarzan (Tuacahn); Actually We're... (Off-Broadway); Red Roses - Green Gold (Off-Broadway). Favorite Broadway associate credits include Camelot, Prima Facie, Pictures from Home, Flying Over Sunset, Oslo, Junk, and An American in Paris. Brad served as the Production Video head for Life of Pi (Broadway) supporting Andrzej Goulding's Tony Award winning video design. Proud member of USA-829.

ARC CASTING (Casting) 150+ productions across the globe & 13 Artios Awards for Casting. Broadway/NY Past & Present Productions include: Life of Pi, Chicago the Musical, Disney's The Lion King & Beauty and the Beast, Hadestown, Lost in Yonkers, Great Comet of 1812, Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes, 39 Steps, Pippin, La Cage aux Folles. TV/Film: Netflix, 20th Century Fox, NBC, Lionsgate, Disney Channel. West End/U.K.: Hadestown, Thriller Live, Menier Chocolate Factory. Tours: 1776, Hairspray, Waitress, Urinetown, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, Finding Neverland, Into the Woods, We Will Rock You. Regional: A.R.T., Berkeley Rep. Alley, Bay Street, Goodspeed, Hollywood Bowl, McCarter, Signature. ARC, Part of RWS Global. www.castingbyarc.com IG: castinabyarc

DANIEL **EVERETT** (Production Stage Manager) saw his first Ogunquit Playhouse production at the age of eleven. OP credits include: Beautiful, Elf, Young Frankenstein, Kinky Boots, Mamma Mia!, An American in Paris, White Christmas, Ragtime, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story. Off-Broadway: Culture Project, Ma-Yi Theater Company, Manhattan Ensemble Theatre. Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, Barrington Stage Company, North Carolina Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Gateway Playhouse, West Virginia Public Theatre. Special thanks to his family.

MELANIE T. MORGAN (Assistant Stage Manager) is pleased to return to Ogunquit Playhouse for her third season! Broadway: The Kite Runner, It Shoulda Been You, Once, High, Looped, Curtains, Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me, Light at The Piazza, Little Women, Jumpers. Off-Broadway: Stardust

Road, Gloria: A Life, Party Face, Cagney, Tappin' Thru Life, Da, Love Loss & What I Wore, Last Easter. Tours: Andrea Martin's Final Days, Carrie Fisher's Wishful Drinking, Little Women, Reefer Madness (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Regional: Carnegie Hall, Williamstown, Kennedy Center, Westport Country Playhouse. Film: Loserville. Television: Handel's Messiah Rocks with The Boston Pops (PBS).

**BARBARA RUBIN** (Dialect Coach) Broadway: The Road to Mecca. Off-Broadway: The Rolling Stone (Lincoln Center); Miss Julie (CSC); Boesman and Lena, Master Harold...and the Boys, The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek, The Train Driver, My Children! My Africa!; The Blood Knot (Signature); Dodi and Diana (HERE); My Name is Asher Lev (Westside). Regional: Mlima's Tale (St. Louis Rep) Photograph 51, Chonburi International Hotel and Butterfly Club (Audible/Williamstown); A Raisin in the Sun, A Human Being of a Sort, Dangerous House (Williamstown); Going to St. Ives (Barrinaton Stage); Born Yesterday (Pittsburgh Public); Judgement Day (Bard SummerScape). Tours: Beautiful; The King & I. Film & TV: "Inventing Anna" & "Ozark"- Julia Garner; "Jigsaw" – Peter Mark Kendall; "Escape from Pretoria" - Daniel Radcliffe; "Official Secrets" - Adam Bakri; "Winnie" - Jennifer Hudson, Terrence Howard; "Chicago Med;" "The Americans"; "Blindspot." Associate Director: Girl From The North Country B'Way and US Tour. Faculty: AADA, www.barbararubin.net

AMANDA WOODWARD (Production Manager) Happy to be returning for their 5th Season at OP. Select Regional: The Santa Fe Opera, American Theater Arts for Youth, Cumberland County Playhouse, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater, The Brick Theater, Orlando Rep, Venue Manager on Various Festivals in NYC. Select Tour/ Corporate installs: Sesame Street Live!, Disney on Ice: Mickey's Search Party (FELD Entertainment), Coca-Cola Pop-Up store on 5th Ave (Install Electrician), Double Dare Live! At Universal Studio Resort with The Imagination House (PSM). Opened/Installed Norwegian Cruise Line's new ships from 2012-2018 (Project Manager) and installed new shows on

over 8 NCL Ships. Boone High School's proud Technical Director and Lighting Designer for 14 years, including designing lights for FL State Thespians one year. Thankful for the love and support from G, TW, Mom and Dad; and all the thanks to Team Production for their help making the magic.

GEOF DOLAN (Technical Director) Is leading the Scene Shop for his 17th season as the Ogunquit Playhouse's Technical Director and Scenic Coordinator. Immediately prior to Ogunquit, he served as Technical Director for Worcester Foothills Theatre. He has done supplemental design work for several shows. He is also the Technical Supervisor for the Playhouse's Arts Academy program. Geof began his technical career working backstage for both of his parents who are theatre directors and began his professional career at Sierra Repertory Theatre in California. For five years, he split his seasons between Maine and Florida, working the same technical areas for Orlando Shakespeare Festival, but now stays with the Playhouse year-round. His wife Cheryl (Resident Scenic Charge at the Playhouse for 16 seasons) has designed award-winning parade floats and designs many of the Arts Academy productions.

**CHERYL DOLAN** (Resident Scenic Charge) Is lending her brush to the sets for her 16th season at the Ogunquit Playhouse. After taking over as Resident Scenic Charge 13 years ago, she has designed several Sets for our Youth Theatre Program, as well as adding her artistic eye to many of the main stage productions. Since falling in love with the Ogunquit Playhouse, Cheryl, her husband Geof Dolan (the Ogunquit Playhouse Technical Director), and their new addition, Cairo the Shop Dog, have made the Seacoast their home yearround. Cheryl considers the staff at OP her family and hopes that her love and passion for theater is translated through the productions to all of you.

BRIAN J. SWASEY (Producing Director)
Now in his ninth season, Brian is originally
from South Portland, ME and a graduate
of the University of New Hampshire. After
moving to NYC in 1995 and focusing on
pursuing a career as an actor, he changed
focus and became the Founding Artistic

Director of The Astoria Performing Arts Center, followed by the Associate Producer position at Queens Theatre in the Park in Flushing, NY. There he was involved in producing the 20th Anniversary Revival of Closer Than Ever starring Sally Mayes and Lynne Winterstellar. Prior to Ogunquit, Brian was the Managing Director for The New York Theatre Barn. NYC Developmental Projects: The Rock Musical, The 12 and the new holiday musical Tim and Scrooge. As a Director/Choreographer, Brian has had the pleasure of working on Pump Boys and Dinettes, Hairspray, Chicago, A New Brain, and Altar Boyz. He was the Assistant Director for the NYC Revival of Die, Mommie. Die! starring Charles Busch. At the Playhouse, Brian directed the TYA productions of The Berenstain Bears and The Cat In The Hat. Brian has also booked cabaret entertainment at The Triad in NYC, and brought artists such as Christina Bianco and Bruce Vilanch to MaineStreet Ogunquit.

**BRADFORD** T. KENNEY (Executive Artistic Director) is also a producer, director for stage and film, and an artist. He is particularly passionate about the preservation of our nation's historic theaters, ensuring their relevance for tomorrow's audiences, and grateful to steward Ogunquit Playhouse as it approaches its 100th anniversary. Since arriving in 2005, The Playhouse has tripled its audience, growing from an acclaimed Summer Stock theater into one of America's preeminent year-round regional theaters, with productions staged in multiple states. During Brad's stewardship, The Playhouse has garnered numerous awards and honors including the Moss Hart Trophy for Outstanding Achievement in the American Theatre, and multiple IRNE and Broadway World awards. Beyond having great pride in overseeing more than 94 Playhouse productions, Brad is closely involved in the development of America's theatrical canon through the Ogunquit Playhouse New Works Program, guiding the curation and development of new theatrical experiences, including Frida The Musical, Mommie Dearest The Musical, Heartbreak Hotel, Mystic Pizza, Christmas in Connecticut, Mr. Holland's Opus, and The Nutty Professor. Brad was formerly the Artistic Director of the



Foothills Theatre and Wachusett Theatre Companies in Massachusetts. He is also a fourth–generation plein air landscape artist, having studied with Beth Ellis and at Rhode Island School of Design, Heartwood College of Art, and Maine College of Art.

**DEBORAH WARREN** (Managing Director) is a seasoned theatre professional with over 20 years of experience in the performing arts industry. As the Director of Marketing at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles since 2016, she oversaw the marketing, publicity, advertising and ticket sales for the Ahmanson, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre. During her time at Center Theatre Group, she generated over \$158 million in ticket revenue, \$500k in sponsorship revenue, and directed campaigns for over 80 productions. Highlights during her tenure include launching the pre-Broadway shows Amélie, and Ain't Too Proud, as well as the record-breaking LA engagements of Dear Evan Hansen, Slave Play, and Zoot Suit. Before joining Center Theatre Group, Deborah held senior level positions at Disney Theatrical, where she managed productions of The Lion King in Las Vegas and the national tour of Aida. She also served as the head of the West Coast office for the advertising agency, Serino Coyne, and was responsible for marketing the sitdown productions of Wicked in Los Angeles and North American productions of Jersey Boys. Deborah's career in the entertainment industry began as a Broadway publicist at Manhattan Theatre Club in New York, She has since held leadership roles at Hartford Stage, New Dramatists, and the Berkshire Theatre Festival. In Los Angeles, she was instrumental in launching two nationally recognized live entertainment venues: the Geffen Playhouse and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Deborah holds a degree from Syracuse University and is originally from East Haddam, Connecticut. Deborah and her husband Andy Crown, daughter Skylar and springer spaniel Tony are excited to relocate from Los Angeles to Southern Maine.

SIMON FRIEND ENTERTAINMENT (Associate Producer) Limited is an independent theatre and film production

company and develops, produces, and manages all of our own productions, which have won Academy Awards, BAFTAs, Olivier Awards, Tony Awards, UK Theatre and Critics' Circle Awards. West End credits include: The Crown Jewels (Garrick Theatre); Life of Pi (Wyndham's Theatre); The Girl on the Train (Duke of York's Theatre); The Starry Messenger (Wyndham's Theatre); Admissions (Trafalgar Studios); The Height of the Storm (Wyndham's); The Philanthropist (Trafalgar Studios); Million Dollar Quartet (Royal Festival Hall); The Father (Wyndham's Theatre and Duke of York's Theatre); Bad Jews (Arts Theatre); Speed-the-Plow (Playhouse Theatre); Relative Values (Harold Pinter Theatre): Fences (Duchess Theatre), UK tour credits include: The Best Exotic Mariaold Hotel; The Da Vinci Code; Dial M for Murder; Dr Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas; The Entertainer; The Girl on the Train; The Messiah; Titanic the Musical; Around the World in 80 Days; The Wipers Times; Trial by Laughter; The Graduate; Million Dollar Quartet. US credits include: Life of Pi (Broadway, Schoenfeld Theatre); The Height of the Storm (Broadway, Samuel J. Friedman Theatre); The Closet by Douglas Carter Beane, starring Matthew Broderick (Williamstown Theatre Festival) and Around the World in 80 Days by Laura Eason (US tour). International credits include: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (New Zealand); Million Dollar Quartet (New Zealand and India) and Titanic - the Musical (Germany). Film & Television: The Father, starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman (winner of 2 Academy Awards & 2 BAFTAs), and The Grinch Musical (NBC & Sky).

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL–CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

# In Conversation with the Playwrights

# RACHEL WAGSTAFF AND DUNCAN ABEL

#### Writers usually work alone. What are the practicalities of writing together?

**DUNCAN** We put all ideas out there. We give everything a chance. It's interesting how even the ideas we don't use help to inform the ones we do. We sketch out scenes together, but we work separately on first drafts and then bring it all together.

**RACHEL** Each project seems to demand a different approach. With The Da Vinci Code, there were times we really did feel like Langdon and Sophie, trying to piece together an epic puzzle.

# Are you good at being honest with each other? **DUNCAN** Brutally.

**RACHEL** The better you know someone, the more honest with them you can be. This is our fifth collaboration and this is the most honest we have been so far!

#### What was your starting point for the adaptation?

**DUNCAN** This is the fun part of working together. We didn't write anything for a while. We just talked through different aspects of the story, discovering the way the other responded to the characters and story strands. It was important to Rachel and me that we spend time with director, Luke Sheppard, so we could develop a shared vision for the piece.

**RACHEL** We then shared our opening scenes with Dan Brown before we went any further. We were very keen that he was happy with the direction in which we were taking our play.

# The Da Vinci Code is not just any novel, it has sold more than 80 Million copies. Did that raise the stakes for you?

**RACHEL** It's both a huge honour and a nerve-racking responsibility taking on something that is treasured by so many. But we only ever work on projects that we love and so we share an understanding with the audience as to why the book means so much to its readers.

**DUNCAN** We talked about the expectations that readers of the novel might have. Our aim was to honour the spirit and story of the book, while drawing on both traditional and modern elements of stagecraft to bring this extraordinary work to life onstage in as visceral a way possible.

## Were you among the 100 Million readers who picked it up after its publication in 2003?

#### **DUNCAN** Yes. I borrowed my copy from Luton Library. I still have it!

**RACHEL** Yes. I read it on the tube on my way into university. I can remember this very clearly because it's the only time I've ever missed my stop.

# The novel draws you in utterly and compels you to keep turning those pages! Why do you think it was such a big hit?

**DUNCAN** Dan Brown created a novel that stretches back through the ages, taking us through the echoic corridors of religious history and the art that depicts it. It's a novel that demands we reexamine symbols and paintings we thought we knew. Its themes are epic; it questions who we are as a civilisation, and yet still manages to be a tense thriller set in the modern age.

**RACHEL** It's a rich and mysterious setting, peopled by a fascinating constellation of characters. An unlikely action hero, the endearing academic, symbologist Robert Langdon, is paired up with Sophie Neveu, French cryptographer and granddaughter to the murdered curator of the Louvre. They take us into a gripping world of clues, codes, and symbols. It's an extraordinary story in which Langdon has to solve the mystery to prove his innocence, while Sophie is desperate to find answers to long held secrets about her family. For what would her grandfather be prepared to die?

## For a theatremaker, is it a challenge or an opportunity that The Da Vinci Code has such a range of locations?

**DUNCAN** It's both. Many of the locations have thematic connections churches, the Louvre, a country estate. The design by David Woodhead captures the various locations with a set that evolves through the storytelling.

**RACHEL** We consciously elided as many locations as possible, to allow for fuller scenes and minimal moving about of furniture! We also celebrated the fluidity that theatre offers, including the possibility for locations to exist simultaneously in time and space. David's brilliant set allows this all to happen beautifully.

#### What do you think the book gains in its transition to the stage?

**RACHEL** We were really excited about the possibilities of staging various elements of the novel, such as bringing alive on stage the codes that Sophie and Langdon try to crack. There is something about the intimacy and vibrancy that theatre uniquely offers – a group of connected strangers in a room with living, breathing human beings, creating a story before your eyes.

**DUNCAN** The Da Vinci Code feels operatic, with its grand backdrop of the Church through the ages and the quest for the Holy Grail. The play draws on both modern and traditional elements of stagecraft, to evoke this historic landscape.

**RACHEL** We're really thrilled with the elegant and atmospheric production that Luke, Leigh, and the creative team have created.

# Rachel, in terms of thriller writing, do you see connections between The Da Vinci Code and your version of Agatha Christie's The Mirror Crack'd?

**RACHEL** They're very different stories but yes, there are certainly connections between the two. In both, we have played with the possibilities that only the stage can offer. In my Miss Marple, I conjure memories from the point of view of each character, replaying scenarios from different perspectives, as an unlikely detective, Jane Marple, struggles to piece together a puzzle from which she has been excluded. In The Da Vinci Code, Sophie tries to piece together what her deceased grandfather was trying to tell her. But each play necessitates its own theatrical language, its own conventions, to suit its respective story.

#### Has the show evolved at all from its UK tour to this, its American Premiere?

**DUNCAN** We made the UK show during the height of COVID-19. With members of cast and crew and we, the writers, all isolating at various stages, the process was tricky, to say the least. Despite the challenges, we ended up with a beautiful production.

**RACHEL** You always learn something from watching a production (and from watching the audience) so we were really pleased to have the opportunity to come back to the script and revisit it with more time and space, for and with Ogunquit Playhouse. We've continued to rework the script over the last few months and it feels all the fuller for it. It has been really exciting to be in the rehearsal room with this very talented group of actors, watching this new production evolve and take shape.

#### Have you spoken with Dan Brown?

**RACHEL** Yes, we've kept in touch with him and he's been really generous. We're very grateful for his support. We're thrilled he's coming to see it here in Ogunquit and really hope he's happy with both our work and the production.

Mark Fisher © John Good

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