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# BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY KEITH HOVIS

DIRECTED BY LAURA LEFFLER
OCT 7-29, 2023

history theatre

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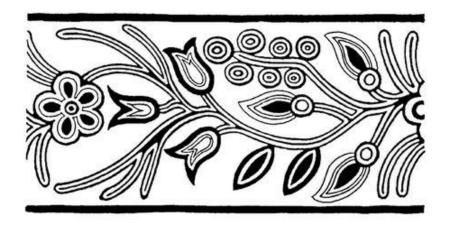
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SCAN ME 2023-24 SEASON

history theatre



# Land Acknowledgement

History Theatre sits on the ancestral, traditional and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, and political significance. We recognize and honor the Dakota people, ancestors, and descendants, as well as the land itself, and all the sovereign Native nations in Minnesota and beyond. We recognize that this acknowledgement itself is not enough and only serves as a first step towards decolonization.



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I welcome you to the History Theatre's 2023-24 Season; thank you for being here.

Kicking off this new season with *The Boy Wonder*, we seek to tell stories that explore the human experience, condition, relationships, and joyous triumph of the human spirit.

Over 40 years, History Theatre has truly come to treasure the amazing work and spectacular community of theatre professionals who have built and sustained It. I look forward to our continued work with these talented artists, as well as engaging new and emerging artists from the theatre community.

We seek to build on History Theatre's important legacy of creating new and existing work that explores the history of Minnesota, the Midwest, and the diverse American experience. To continue telling well-known and untold stories while amplifying unheard voices and welcoming everyone to the audience.

Hope to see you back in the theatre this holiday season for I Am Betty!

Richard D. Thompson



# Book, Music, and Lyrics by **KEITH HOVIS**

Directed by Laura Leffler
Music Direction by Amanda Weis
Music Arrangements by Daniel Nass

# TIME/PLACE

1991, 1937-1947.

Minnesota, World War II, San Francisco - United Nations Conference (1945)

## **THE CAST**

• •	1112 0710 1	
Harold Stassen		Evan Tyler Wilson*
Glen Stassen		Thomas Bevan
Bernhard LeVander, Hubertus Van M	look, Ensemble	Erik Ohno Dagoberg
Esther Stassen, Ensemble		Emily Dussault
William Stassen, Admiral Halsey, En	semble	Bradley Greenwald*
Cecil Newman, Ralph Bunche, Enser	nble	Dwight Xaveir Leslie*
Elsie Stassen, Virginia Safford, Ense	mble	Jen Maren*
Roy Dunn, Maximo Kalaw, Ensemble	2	Eric "Pogi" Sumangil*
Warren Burger, Charles Lindbergh, Ensemble		Carl Swanson
Understudies	. Ruthie Baker, N	eal Beckman, Davis Brinker,
	Peyton Dixon*	, Alex Galick*, Carl Swanson

# THE MUSICIANS

Piano/Keyboard	Amanda Weis
Guitar	Asher Moreton
Bass	Jenessa Iverson
Bass	
Drums	

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

Brendan Nelson Finn



- \* denotes a Member of Actors' Equity Association
- denotes a Member of American Federation of Musicians Local #3073



# **SONG LIST**

# **ACT I**

Prelude	Company
Running	Stassen, Harold, Glen, Esther, Company
The Middle	Protesters, Harold
The Great Before	Harold, Esther, Company
Young Republicans	Harold, Esther, Warren Burger, Bernhard LeVander
Hook 'Em Cows	Hook 'Em Quartet, Harold
The Pamphlet	Company
The Great Before (Reprise)	Glen, Esther, Harold
If	William, Elsie, Esther, Harold
The Boy Wonder	Company
The Boy Wonder (Coda)	Harold, Glen, Stassen

## THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

# **ACT II**

America First	Charles Lindbergh, Company
Outside	Harold, William, Glen
Boy Wonder Goes to War	Company
Running (Reprise)	Esther
Drifting	Harold, Company
Independence	Harold, Peter Fraser, Maximo Kalaw,
	Lord Cranborne, Hubertus Van Mook, Ralph Bunche,
The Waiting	Ralph
The Final Mission	Harold, Commodore Simpson, Company
Enough	Glen, Company
Finale	Company

#### **ARTISTIC TEAM**

_ •	
Director	Laura Leffler
Music Director	Amanda Weis
Music Arrangements	Daniel Nass
Rehearsal Stage Manager	
Performance Stage Manager	Haley Walsh*
Choreographer	
Dance Captain	Thomas Bevan
Costume Designer	
Scenic Designer	Sadie K. Ward
Lighting and Video Designer	
Properties Designer	Rebecca Jo Malmstrom
Sound Designer	
Dramaturg	
Assistant Director	-
Assistant Stage Manager	Jessica Goldade

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

•	Sasha Blinnikova, Kurt Jung, Nick Fetting, Parker Love Kelley Yount, Joel Gray, Anna Gutow
	Zachary Morgan
	Brian Hesser, Ian Iosso
	lan losso
	Erika Soukup
Scenic Artist	Mac Meza
Costume Assistant	Meghan Kent
ASL Interpreters	Linda Gill, Nella Titus
<b>Audio Describer and Open Capti</b>	oner Laura Wiebers







FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

Outside of my work as an artist, I have spent the last 12 years working in state government. I have been honored to serve under a mayor, a governor, and various commissioners throughout my career. Writing this musical brought those two worlds together for the first time, allowing me to examine my commitment to and belief in public service. For that, I am eternally grateful.

While working on the show, I was taken aback by how many events in the 1930s and '40s seemed to echo recent headlines. From protests to increasing political divisions to a war overseas, it reminded me how history often repeats itself. We tell these stories hoping to break the cycle and create a world built around what unites, not divides us.

After researching Harold Stassen's life, reading his words, and talking to his daughter and granddaughter, I think he would've wholeheartedly cosigned onto Paul Wellstone's famous mantra, "We all do better when we all do better." I see Harold as a devoted family man who always stood behind his word. He believed in compromise and governing for everyone above all else, even when it hurt him politically. His immense compassion for humankind is a characteristic we could use more of in our current divisive times.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't end this note by calling out my favorite find in researching Harold: the relationship with his wife, Esther. From the moment they met in their youth to the end of their marriage, passing away within months of each other, they shared mutual respect, adoration, and endless support. I hope we all are lucky enough to find that kind of love.

Thank you for supporting new work and local theater.

Keith Hovis

# SPECIAL THANKS:

Steve Werle, Lori Sturdevant, David Durenberger, Alec Kirby, David G. Dalin, Mark Ritchie, Minnesota Historical Society, Humphrey School of Public Affairs



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The opportunity to direct this piece came at such an opportune moment in the trajectory of my life. My father passed away in June after long battles with illnesses, and as I have grieved, I've taken solace in Keith's story about Harold's life. Keith has so intricately woven this story of Glen, and Harold, and William - this one family - but it's also all families and all parents and all children. We want so much from and for the people to whom we are bound. While he was on hospice, my dad wanted me to sit by his side, so I took one of our dramaturgy meetings on zoom, sitting by his bedside, holding his hand. As I hold my children close as they grieve the loss of their grandpa, I think about Harold's song, "Outside," and what sort of model I'm being for them.

This play is about politics, finding common ground, and using negotiation for the greater good. It's also about legacy, what we gain from those that came before, what we can do in our moment, and what we leave for the next generation.

Sorting through my father's possessions I found old Kodak slides from a high school production of THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, and it turns out - I didn't realize - my dad was a thespian, too. I know he would have loved this show – he smiled when he could during that dramaturgy meeting. I think he would've liked William's song "If," as he was a Kipling fan, too. I didn't know how much I needed this piece when I signed on to direct, but I'm so thankful I did. As ever, art holds hope and healing for us all. I hope Harold's story told through Keith's music and words touches your heart, as they have mine.

Laura Leffler

## SPECIAL THANKS:

Luka Halvarson, Heidi & Joe Halvarson, Julian Swanson, Carl Atiya Swanson & Stacy Schwartz, MJ Leffler

# HAROLD E. STASSEN TIMELINE



**During a lifetime** devoted to public service, Harold Stassen left an indelible mark upon American politics. He first gained national prominence in the 1930s by revitalizing Minnesota's Republican Party and establishing a progressive, cooperative approach to state government. Although his achievements are often obscured by his seemingly relentless quest to become president. Stassen contributed greatly to the cause of international peace following World War II.

#### 1907

Harold Edward Stassen is born on April 13 to William and Elsbeth Stassen on the family's farm in West St. Paul. His father, William, is active in the Republican Party and is elected to several local offices.

#### 1922

Stassen graduates from St. Paul's Humboldt Senior High School at the age of fifteen. He ranks second in his class.



(above) Harold E. Stassen, 1940. (right) Harold Stassen and his wife, Esther Glewwe Stassen, 1939.

#### 1929

He graduates from the University of Minnesota with a law degree and opens a small law office in South St. Paul with fellow attorney Elmer Ryan. In November, he marries Esther Glewwe, whom he had first met at a Sunday school picnic many years earlier.

#### 1930

Stassen is elected Dakota County attorney.

#### 1936

Stassen is elected the first chairman of Minnesota's Young Republican League.

#### 1938

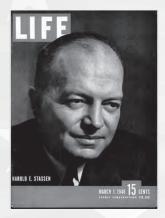
He is elected governor of Minnesota with nearly 60 percent of the vote. At thirtyone years of age, Stassen is the youngest governor in the state's history.

#### 1940

He delivers the keynote address at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia and helps secure the presidential nomination for Wendell Willkie. Willkie loses to Roosevelt in November, but Stassen is reelected governor.



# DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE



(above) Cover of LIFE Magazine in 1948. (right) Cdr. Stassen and Commo. Simpson, 1945. (below) Harold Stassen signs the UN Charter in 1945.

#### 1942

Stassen announces that if reelected he will resign his governorship to join the U.S. Naval Reserves the following spring. He wins his third gubernatorial election.

#### 1943

After resigning as governor, he moves to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Chicago. Lieutenant Commander Stassen is assigned to the South Pacific to serve as flag secretary for Admiral William "Bull" Halsey.

#### 1945

He is appointed by President Roosevelt to represent the United States at the founding of the United Nations. Returning to active duty, Stassen helps plan and lead an operation to liberate nearly twenty thousand Allied servicemen from Japanese POW camps.

#### 1948

Stassen campaigns actively for the Republican nomination for president but comes in a distant third at the Republican National





Convention. He begins his tenure as president of the University of Pennsylvania.

#### 1953

Stassen joins the Eisenhower Administration as director of mutual security. He later serves as special assistant to the president for disarmament.

#### 1958

Stassen resigns his post in the Eisenhower administration and returns to Philadelphia. He runs

unsuccessfully for governor of Pennsylvania.

#### 1978

After returning to Minnesota to resume his law practice, Stassen enters the U.S. Senate race but fails to secure the Republican Party's nomination.

#### 2001

Stassen dies in Bloomington on March 4, at the age of ninety-three.

Source: mnopedia.org/person/stassen-harold-1907-2001



HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

#### THE CAST



#### THOMAS BEVAN (he/him)

Glen Stassen History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Broadway National Tour: Chicago. Radio City Music Hall: Christmas Spectacular. Off-Broadway: Sayonara. International Tour: Oh What A Night - A Tribute to Frankie Valli and the

Four Seasons, North Carolina Theatre: Legally Blonde. Transcendence Theatre Company: Best Night Ever. Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: The Prom, Hairspray, West Side Story. Theatre L'Homme Dieu: Beautiful: The Carole King Musical. Film: The Last 5 Years.



## ERIK OHNO DAGOBERG (he/him)

Hubertus Van Mook, Ensemble History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Daleko Arts: Peter and the Starcatcher. Mixed Blood: I and You. University of Michigan: The Heart of Robinhood, Nora: A Doll's House. Awards: Best Performer, 2022 - Advanced Actor Combatant Workshop (SAFD),

Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Education - Triple Threat Award Winner 2017, KCACTF Irene Ryan Scholarship Finalist 2019. Training: BFA Theatre Performance Acting, University of Michigan. AFA Theatre Performance, Normandale Community College. IG: @erik\_dagoberg



#### EMILY DUSSAULT (she/her) Esther Stassen, Ensemble

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Theatre Elision: Islander, Sea Cabinet, Gone Missing. Gremlin Theatre: Dial M for Murder. Six Points Theatre: The Last Schwartz. Artistry: Blithe Spirit, Les Miserables, Sunday in the Park With George. Transatlantic Love Affair:

105 Proof. Umbrella Collective: The Awakening, Penelope, June, Rain Follows the Plow, Ravagers; Winding Sheet Outfit: Blood Nocturne. Other: Jazz duo The Champagne Drops. Training: Bachelor of Arts, Coe College. Upcoming: Theatre Elision: Sea Cabinet, May 2024.



#### BRADLEY GREENWALD\* (he/him)

William Stassen, Ensemble History Theatre: Raw Stages, The Kim Loo Sisters. Theater: Theater Latté Da: Twelve Angry Men. Open Eye: The Longest Night. Jungle Theater: The Mystery of Irma Vep, I Am My Own Wife. Children's Theater Company: A Year with Frog and Toad. Guthrie:

Caroline, or Change. Theâtre de la Jeune Lune, Minnesota Dance Theatre, James Sewell Ballet, Nautilus Music-Theater, Frank Theater, 10,000 Things. Writer: Theater Latté Da: C. (adaptation of Cyrano de Bergerac co-writer/ co-director with Stven Epp), Johnny Skeeky, A Wrinkle in Time. Director: Lyric Opera of the North: L'elisir d'amore, Let's Make an Opera. Teaching: PRELUDE Singer-Actor Lab at MacPhail. Awards: MSAB music fellowship, McKnight Fellowship for Theater Artists, Ivey Award. Upcoming: Theater Latté Da: Johnny Skeeky, world premiere (cowriter/co-director Steven Epp), May 2024.



#### DWIGHT XAVEIR LESLIE\* (he/him)

Ralph Bunche, Ensemble History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Off-Broadway: The Harder They Come. Regional: The Wiz, Jelly's Last Jam, Songs For a New World, Smokey Joe's Cafe, Matilda, Redwood, Little Women, Mamma Mia!. Albums under the moniker XAVEIR: CVNCER, Heartbreak on Overdrive.



#### JEN MAREN\* (she/her)

Elsie Stassen, Ensemble History Theatre: Glensheen, Lord Gordon Gordon, Live From New York, He's a Prom Date! (solo show), Nellie, Christmas Schooner, Theater: Guthrie Theater: The Sunshine Boys; Ordway Theatre: Beauty and the Beast; Gremlin Theater: Bakersfield Mist; Penumbra

Theatre: The Wedding Band, Mixed Blood: Love Person; Old Log Theater: Dixie Swim Club, Leaving Iowa, Illusion Theater: My Antonia; Park Square Theatre: Rock-n-Roll, Panic, 33 Variations; Children's Theater Company: Jackie and Me; NorShor Theatre: Don't Dress for Dinner; Founding member, Theatre Unmasqued; Looney Lutheran Company Member; Science Live Theater Member. Other: Audible Audiobook narrator, audio describer. Awards: Ivey Award Overall Excellence - Glensheen. Training: St. Olaf College: B.A. Theater Arts; British American Drama Academy, Oxford, England. jenmaren.com IG:@jenact



#### ERIC "POGI" SUMANGIL\* (he/him)

Roy Dunn, Ensemble History Theatre: Under the Stars & Stripes: Stories of WWII. To Kill a Mockingbird, The Debutante's Ball (playwright). Theater: Park Square Theater: Airness, Baskerville, Macbeth. Flower Drum Song, The Realistic Joneses. Ten Thousand Things: Park & Lake.

Jungle Theater: The Oldest Boy. La Jolla Playhouse: The Seven, Salsalandia!. Mo'olelo Performing Arts: Cowboy Versus Samurai. Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Altar Boyz, West Side Story, HAIR. Mixed Blood Theatre: The Pajama Game, Bill of (W)Rights. Frank Theatre: Cradle Will Rock. Ordway Center: Anything Goes. **Television:** In An Instant (ABC), Investigating History (History Channel). Awards: 2002 Fil-Minnesotan Excellence in the Arts Award, 2009-11 Playwrights' Center Many Voices Fellowship, Finalist: 2010 Second Generation's Free Range contest, Winner: 2021 Entertwine AAPI Playwriting Contest. EricPogiSumangil.com



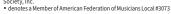
#### CARL SWANSON (he/him)

Charles Lindbergh, Ensemble, Understudy History Theatre: Debut. Theater: NOEL the Musical (National Tour). The Ordway: Beauty and the Beast. Children's Theatre Company: Cinderella. Trademark Theater: The Reunion Workshop. Old Log Theater: The Play that Goes Wrong, How I Became a Pirate. Artistry: The Drowsy

Chaperone, Wit, Memphis, The Pajama Game. Theatre Pro Rata: Silent Sky. Lyric Arts: Something Rotten, Bright Star, If/ Then. Sh!tfaced Shakespeare: Midsummer. Film: Sanctified (Amazon). Training: UW-Stevens Point. carldswanson.com. IG: @carldswan

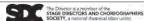
BIOS continued page 11













## EVAN TYLER WILSON\* (he/they)

Harold Stassen

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Off-Broadway: Theater Latté Da: All is Calm. Regional: Theater Latté Da: Assassins, Sweeney Todd; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: The Music Man, Footloose. Awards: 2019 Drama Desk Award (All is Calm), 2020 Star Tribune's Best Musical

of the Decade (Assassins). Training: BM in Musical Theatre, Arizona State University, evantylerwilson.com

#### THE MUSICIANS



## KYLE BAKER (he/him)

History Theatre: Teen Idol: The Bobby Lee Story. Theater: Old Log Theater, Music Director: Escape to Margaritaville, Once Upon A Mattress, Million Dollar Quartet; Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Pit Member sub: Grease, Newsies, Mamma Mia,

Footloose, The Prom, Jersey Boys; Theatre Latté Da: Next to Normal; Park Square Theatre: Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant; Old Log Theatre: Million Dollar Quartet, Ghost: the Musical, Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder; Theater Mu: Again; Lyric Arts: The Wedding Singer; Jungle Theatre: Ride the Cyclone.



## JENESSA IVERSON (she/they)

Bass History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Theatre L'Homme Dieu: Beautiful; Old Log Theatre: Once Upon a Mattress, Escape to Margaritaville. Other: Choreography: 4CT: Mary Poppins; Lakeshore Players: La Cage aux Folles. Music Direction: Lakeshore Players:

Matilda Jr.; Stages Theatre Co. (teaching artist). Training: BFA Musical Theatre, BA Hispanic Studies, University of Minnesota, Duluth. Upcoming: Minnesota Opera: Cruzar la Cara de la Luna. Info: jenessaiverson.com; IG: jenessa\_iverson.



#### ASHER MORETON (he/him)

Guitar

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Peter Pan, Anything Goes, The Lightning Thief, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Other: Schubert Club Bruce P. Carlson Competition, University of Northwestern St. Paul Concerto-Aria Competition, UNWSP Academy of Music

Instructor, Freelance Classical Guitar Performance, Freelance Praise and Worship, Training: BMUS Guitar Performance. University of Northwestern St. Paul. Upcoming: Senior Degree Recital (May 2024). IG: asher.moreton



#### AMANDA WEIS (she/her) Music Director, Keyboard

**History Theatre:** Music Director Raw Stages, The Boy Wonder. Select Theater: Vocal Director: Nick Jr Live National Tour; Minneapolis Musical Theatre High Fidelity, Stage Director: Journey North Opera Ghosts Behind the Glass, MMT Daddy Long Legs, Open

Window Theatre Foshay! A New Musical, Asst. Director Hawaii Performing Arts Festival Don Giovanni. Upcoming: Stage Directing: The Phipps Center for the Arts Tuck Everlasting, Children Performing Arts Freaky Friday, Music Directing Guthrie Triple Threat Camps. weisamanda.com



### KALE WINSHIP (he/him)

History Theatre: Debut. Zephyr Theatre: School of Rock, IG: @kale winship

#### **HE UNDERSTUDIES**



## RUTHIE BAKER (she/her)

**History Theatre:** Glensheen (originated), Christmas of Swing (originated), Sisters of Swing. Theater: Guthrie: The Music Man, Pride & Prejudice; Ordway: Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol; Daleko Arts: Bright Star (Alice); Tent Theatre: 9 to 5 (Doralee); Yellow Tree

Theatre: Violet: Riverside Theatre: Sisters of Swing. Other: Founder, Second Fiddle Productions, licensed realtor with Edina Realty. Training: UW- Stevens Point, BFA Musical Theatre, NYC: Jen Waldman Studio, Upcoming: Holidays with my Tall English Husband and 3 lovely kiddos (age 6, 5 & 2). Info: ruthiebaker.com IG: @ruthieshouseandhome



#### NEAL BECKMAN (he/him)

**History Theatre:** *God Girl.* **Theater:** Theatre Mu: Kung Fu Zombie Saga; Old Log Theatre: Once Upon a Mattress; Artistry: Shrek; Park Square: Pride & Prejudice; Walking Shadow: A Midwinter Night's Revel; Classical Actor's Ensemble: Julius Caesar. Training: Theatre Performance Fordham University,

Actor's Workout with the Guthrie Theatre. Upcoming: Children's Theatre Company: Alice in Wonderland.



#### DAVIS BRINKER (he/him)

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Grav Mallard Theatre: Twelfth Night, Richard III. Spiral Theater: Spiral Notebook Sketch Show: The Public Theater: Twin Size Beds; Crowded Outlet: beep boop. Cedar Summerstock: Jesus Christ Superstar, James and the Giant Peach. The Music Man. Awards: Spotlight

Triple Threat Award Winner (2014). Training: University of Evansville. IG: @davisbrinker



#### PEYTON DIXON\* (he/him)

History Theatre: Teen Idol: A Bobby Vee Story, Runestone!, Christmas of Swing, Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story, Diesel Heart. Theater: Ten Thousand Things: Thunder Knocking on the Door; Artistry: Hairspray; Stages Theatre: Little Mermaid Junior; Paul Bunvan Plavhouse: Smokev Joe's Café.

Hairspray; MPP: Shrek. Actors Theatre of Minnesota: A Miracle on Christmas Lake; Rochester Civic Theatre: Jesus Christ Superstar, Elf, Night of the Living Dead; CCP: 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; Theatre L'Homme Dieu: Clue. IG: dixon\_peyton

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<sup>\*</sup> denotes a Member of Actors' Equity Association

<sup>‡</sup> denotes a Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.
• denotes a Member of American Federation of Musicians Local #3073



#### ALEX GALICK\* (he/him)

History Theatre: Debutante's Ball.
Theater: Dark & Stormy Productions:
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie; Gray
Mallard Theater Co.: Twelfth Night.
TigerLion Arts: The Buddha Prince;
Guthrie Theater: Hamlet, A Christmas
Carol, Vietgone; Door Shakespeare: The
Three Musketeers: An Adventure with

Music, The Tempest; Stillwater Zephyr Theatre: As You like it, The Secret Garden, Witness for the Prosecution, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream; Park Square Theatre: Pride and Prejudice; Theater Mu: Purple Cloud, A Little Night Music, Yellow Fever, Into the Woods, Edith can Shoot Things and Hit Them, Bahala Na. Film: V/H/S/85, Scare Package 2, R BnB, The Harbinger (2022). Training: M.F.A., Louisiana State University; B.A., Macalester College. alexaelick.com IG: @alexaelick

#### THE CREATIVE TEAM

#### **KEITH HOVIS (he/him)**

Playwright, Composer, Lyricist

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Park Square Theatre: Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant; Freshwater Theatre: Pioneer Suite; Minnesota Fringe Festival: Edith Gets High, Teenage Misery; Twin Cities Horror Festival: Writer's Room, A Morbid History of Sons and Daughters. Composing: Theater Mu/Mixed Blood: Two Mile Hollow. Fortune's Fool: The Skriker. Awards: 2019 City Pages Artist of the Year, 2019 Twin Cities Arts Reader Composer of the Year, 2019 Star Tribune #1 pick in year-end top shows of the year, 2018 MN Theater Award. Training: Nautilus Music-Theater Composer Librettist Studio. Upcoming: Trademark Theater: Ostentatious Outlaws of Neehai Valley (in development).

#### LAURA LEFFLER (she/her)

Director

History Theatre: Superman Becomes Lois Lane. Theater: Park Square Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, Frank Theatre, The Moving Company, Theatre de la Juene Lune, Umbrella Collective, and more. Awards: Citypages Best Director 2018. Training: MA University of Kansas, BA Baker University. Info: lauraleffler.me

#### DANIEL NASS (he/him)

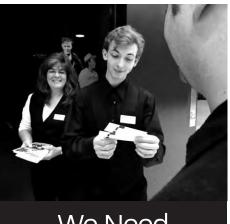
Arranger

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Moonlit Walk Home (Nautilus Music-Theater); Ghost Sonata, The Hoopla Train (Sod House Theater); The Crucible, Marat/Sade (Augsburg University). Other: Animal Songs (Schubert Club); One-Dog Canoe (FRIENDS of the Minnesota Orchestra); Sauvons le mini-cheval (Hub New Music). Training: Bachelor of Arts, Music Theory/Composition – Saint Olaf College; Master of Music in Composition – University of Missouri – Kansas City; Doctorate of Music in Composition – University of Ivasa at Austin. Upcoming: Angel Face (Nautilus Music-Theater). Website: danielnassmusic.com. FB and IG – @draynass

#### JOEY MILLER (he/him)

Choreographer

History Theatre: Debut. Directing/Choreography: Great Theater: Beauty and the Beast; Theatre L'Homme Dieu: Beautiful; CDT: Prom; Artistry: Shrek; The Ordway: Gotta Dance; The Old Log: Gentleman's Guide...Murder; Cedar Summerstock: Forever Plaid, Seussical. Theater: CDT: Footloose, Mamma Mial, Holiday Inn, Disney's Newsies, Beauty and the Beast; Theater



# We Need **YOU!**

Volunteers are vital in helping us create and stage new work.

To learn more, please email volunteer@historytheatre.com

Latté Da: Chicago; Artistry: Songs for a New World; The Ordway: West Side Story, A Chorus Line, White Christmas, Pirates of Penzance. Training: BFA Music Theatre, Viterbo University. Joey is also a licensed massage therapist. AEA.

#### SADIE K. WARD (she/her)

Scenic Designer

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Lyric Arts: *SpongeBob* The Musical, Smokey Joes Café; Theatre in the Round: Sherwood, Comedy of Errors, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, These Shining Lives, Emma, Romeo and Juliet; Pangea World Theatre: Sabra Falling. Chameleon Theatre Circle: Caucasian Aggressive Pandas, Arcadia. Segue Productions: Church and State, Denial; Park Square Theatre: Sometimes There's Win; Naples Players: Savannah Sipping Society, Christmas Carol the Musical; West Texas A&M: Bull in a China Shop; Lake Shore Players: Little Mermaid, Around the World in 80 Days, Sherlock Holmes, Noises Off. Training: BA Theatre Studies and BRA Arts Administration from Viterbo University and Architectural Technology Degree from Minneapolis Community and Technical College **Upcoming:** Viterbo University: *Godspell*; Website: www.sadieward.weebly.com

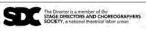
#### JAMES EISCHEN (he/him)

Lighting Designer

History Theatre: Superman Becomes Lois Lane (Lighting Design). Theater: Medora Musical (2019-2023). Touring Theater Associates: Jekyll&Hyde National Tour; Troupe America Inc.: Ring of Fire National Tour, Troupe America, Lyric Arts Anoka, Normandale Community College, Umbrella Collective, Old Log, Circa21, Maples Rep, Duluth

BIOS continued page 13





Playhouse, Lyric Opera of the North, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, University of Minnesota Duluth, Seventh House Collective. Training: BFA Design/ Technical, University of Minnesota, Duluth. Upcoming: Normandale Community College: Lightning Thief; Six Points Theater: Sisters In Law. JimLighting.com.

#### RUBBLE&ASH

Costume Designer

History Theatre: Superman Becomes Lois Lane. Theater: nimbus: Count Up To Christmas. The Red and The Bright, A Life of Days, Elmer McCurdy; Park Square: Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant; Interact.

#### KATHARINE HOROWITZ (she/her)

Sound Designer

History Theatre: Diesel Heart. The Root Beer Lady. Superman Becomes Lois Lane, Stewardess!, A Crack In The Sky, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin, and others. Theater: Children's Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, Creede Repertory Theatre, The Jungle Theater, Theatre Mu, Mixed Blood Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Gremlin Theatre, Second City Theatricals, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, and many others. Other: Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association (professional member). Awards: 2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow at the Playwrights' Center. Upcoming: Theatre Latte Da: Falsettos; Gremlin Theatre: The Thin Place, katsound.com

#### REBECCA JO MALMSTROM (she/her)

Properties Designer

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Guthrie Theater: over 100 shows as shopper/buyer artisan in the Props Department; Stepping Stone Theater 5 shows as Costume Designer including Heartbeat of the Drum, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! Fringe Festival, eight productions as props, stage manager, production manager, and more with Jason Schommer. Film/ Videos: We'll Fix It In Post Productions, projects with Justin Courtney Pierre. Social Media: Duckie Uglings on FB and Instagram.

#### LAURA TOPHAM\*(she/her)

Rehearsal Stage Manager

History Theatre: Diesel Heart, Parks, Not For Sale. Theater: Stage Manager - Guthrie Theater: A Raisin in the Sun. Artistry: Godspell, Follies; Yellow Tree Theatre: A Streetcar Named Desire, Another Miracle on Christmas Lake, Sherwood; Collide Theatrical Dance Company: Romeo and Juliet; Park Square Theatre (selected): Holmes and Watson, The Rocky Horror Show, Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant, Baskerville, The Diary of Anne Frank. Assistant Stage Manager -Guthrie Theater: Murder on the Orient Express, The Little Prince; Theatre Latte Da: Candide, Beautiful Thing. Training: BA Theatre Arts, UMN. Upcoming: Guthrie Theatre: A Christmas Carol (Asst. Stage Manager)

#### HALEY WALSH\* (she/her)

Performance Stage Manager

History Theatre: Runestone, Not For Sale, Christmas of Swing, Beyond the Rainbow, Sisters of Peace, Stewardess!, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story (premiere and remount), Lord Gordon Gordon, A Crack in the Sky, Coco's Diary, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin,

The Highwaymen, Complicated Fun, Watermelon Hill, George Bonga: Black Voyageur. Theater: Theater Mu, Illusion Theater, Collide Theatrical Dance Company, Theater Latte Da, Mixed Blood Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, Park Square Theater, Six Points Theater, Trademark Theatre, Lyric Arts, Daleko Arts, and Minneapolis Musical Theatre. Other: Loyce Houlton's Nutcracker Fantasy, MN Dance Theatre. Learn more: haleynwalsh.com

#### JESSICA GOLDADE (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Ordway Manager of Production Department Operations; Artistry: Pajama Game, Shrek, and Memphis, Sod House "RARE: Stories of Dis-ease". Training: The University of Montana IG: @jessica.a.swanson

#### JULIA VALEN (she/her)

Assistant Director

History Theatre: Debut, Theater: GreenHouse Theatre Project: Hedda Gabler, Hilma, Nothing Can Stop What is Coming, Winchester; Jungle Theater: Christmas at Pemberley, You Can't Take it With You; Park Square Theatre: Airness; Guthrie Theater: My Fair Lady; Wonderlust Productions: Hopscotch; The Moving Company: Anamnesis; The Workshop Theater: Pulp Vérité; Living Room Theater Company: Lucy's Wedding; Great River Shakespeare Festival: Macbeth, Twelfth *Night* u/s. **Other:** Committee Films/History Channel: I Was There; Chelsea Film Festival: A Home in the Country; Chain Film Festival & OUT at the Movies Film Festival: Don't Cry Yet. Training: BA, St. Olaf College. MFA, NYU Grad Acting. **Upcoming:** Guthrie Theater: A Brittle Glory u/s. Info: juliavalen.org

#### ALAYNA JACQUELINE (she/her)

Dramatura

History Theatre: Debut. Theater: Theater Mu, Phoenix Theater, Market Garden Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Playwrights' Center, Athena Project, Twin Cities Horrorfest, MadLab Theater, Lincoln Theater, 2019 Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival, Pythian Theater, William Inge Center, and Lakeshore Players. Plays: All of The Everything, You Know I'd Never (Even If I Did), It's Too Cold For You Here, Drapetomania. Other: Co-host, Theater Begins Here podcast. Awards: Recipient, Playwriting Micro-Development Session, National Black Theatre Soul Series Lab, 2020, Playwright-in-residency, William Inge Center, 2019, Nautilus Composer and Librettist Studio, 2019. Training: B.A in Theatre, Otterbein University and MFA in creative writing, Goddard College. Upcoming: Secret things I cannot say, yet. Info: alaynajacqueline.com

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<sup>\*</sup> denotes a Member of Actors' Equity Association



FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome back to our 46th season at History Theatre! We are excited to open the season with a look at Harold Stassen, Minnesota's youngest governor and a statesman with a unifying vision for America and the world. This extraordinary new musical shares important history that resonate with contemporary political and societal issues.

Season tickets are still available, and offer a fantastic value. You'll want to see the line-up of shows that together celebrate the joy, triumph and resilience of a wide range of important history makers. Check out our website at www.historytheatre.com for the full season of shows.

On another note, we've begun our efforts to improve the theatre going experience for our audiences. We heard your requests, and with thanks to all of you who donated to our campaign, we've added two fully accessible restrooms and given the existing bathrooms a makeover! You'll be hearing plans for additional theatre improvements later this season. Stay tuned.

Again, I hope you can join us for the coming season. Under the new artistic leadership of Rick Thompson, History Theatre's stage is in good hands, and every show is not to be missed!

Karen Mueller

# To make a donation, visit www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate or call the Box Office at 651-292-4323.

Thank you for your support!





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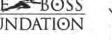














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FROM THE EDUCATION MANAGER

Welcome to the first show in our 2023-24 season! Telling the story of Harold Stassen and how it is connected to our world today fits well inside the wheelhouse of History Theatre: real people, real stories. While this first-class creative work is being performed on our main stage, something similar and profoundly transformative is taking place in the programs offered by our education department.

History Theatre has been sending professional teaching artists into the Twin Cities area for more than a decade in order to help people in articulating and sharing the stories of their life. We have a strong belief that this kind of work builds community and makes it stronger, easing the difficulties of life and expanding its joys since they are shared.

Already in August of this year, we have picked up where we left off with two of our long-standing partners, Minnesota Independence College and Community (MICC) and Vail Place. At Vail Place, we are privileged to work with members who live with a serious mental health diagnosis, and at MICC we have the honor of working with college-age students who are neurodivergent. Both of these groups area a delight to work with. In both instances, the labels that are affixed to these amazing people only account for a small portion of their whole humanity. Our lessons make it possible for students to reflect on the breadth of their experiences and encourage them to do so, as well as to think about how these encounters position them in connection to one another and the wider world.

Real people with real stories, no matter of the breath or depth of their experiences, are always welcome here.

Once again, we are grateful for your support of History Theatre; we hope you enjoy the show!

Paul de Cordova

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# History Theatre entertains, educates, and engages

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