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**BOOK & LYRICS BY  
CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA  
MUSIC & LYRICS BY  
DENISE PROSEK  
DIRECTED BY MAIJA GARCÍA**

NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 23, 2023

**h**istory theatre

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOW!**  
**HAPPY HOLI-DANE**  
**Tue, Dec 19 7:30pm**



INFO/TICKETS, VISIT [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com)



# RAW STAGES

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**Jan 10, 7:30 pm | Quiet Tough**  
by Brian Grandison

**Jan 11, 7:30 pm | Ms. Millett**  
by Jenna Zark

**Jan 12, 7:30 pm | Dayton's**  
book by Bob Beverage  
music & lyrics by Denise Prosek

**Jan 13, 2 pm | Secret Warriors**  
by Rick Shiomi

**Jan 14, 2 pm | Notorious Nellie**  
by Josef Evans

## WELCOME TO HISTORY THEATRE



RICHARD D. THOMPSON

Welcome back to History Theatre; thank you for being here and supporting theatre.

Continuing our season with *I Am Betty*, we are exploring stories from history which celebrate the joyous triumph of the human spirit.

Building upon History Theatre's important legacy of creating new and existing work, we seek 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 winter to experience Greta Oglesby's story in *Handprints!*

*Richard D. Thompson, Artistic Director*



KAREN MUELLER

Greetings all and thank you for joining us during this busy time of year. *I Am Betty*, Cristina Luzárraga and Denise Prosek's memorable chronicle of a century of women's roles through the filter of icon Betty Crocker, is the second world premiere in a season of five new works!

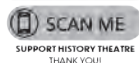
I want to applaud and thank our creative team and emphasize how unique History Theatre is in the local nonprofit theater landscape. Bringing important stories about real events, people, icons and institutions from "page to stage" is unique and takes imagination, skill and speed. It also takes funding to support the research and development time to bring stories to life "fully baked."

If you like what you see on our stage, please consider a tax-deductible gift to the theatre. Your support is greatly appreciated and truly needed now more than ever as we work diligently to meet our end of year goals.

Thank you in advance and sending best wishes to you and yours this holiday season.

*Karen Mueller, Managing Director*

**To make a donation, visit  
[www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate](http://www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate)  
or call the Box Office at 651-292-4323.**





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**Book and Additional Lyrics by  
CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA**  
**Music and Lyrics by  
DENISE PROSEK**  
**Directed by Maija García ‡**  
**Music Direction by Sonja Thompson•**

**TIME/PLACE**

Minneapolis & Nationwide  
1921-2021

**THE ENSEMBLE**

Ruthie Baker  
Camryn Buelow  
Erin Capello  
Tiffany Cooper\*  
Lynnea Doublette\*  
Jennifer Grimm\*  
Anna Hashizume\*  
Olivia Kemp  
Kiko Laureano\*



RUTHIE BAKER



CAMRYN BUELOW



ERIN CAPELLO



TIFFANY COOPER



LYNNEA DOUBLETTE



JENNIFER GRIMM



ANNA HASHIZUME



OLIVIA KEMP



KIKO LAUREANO

**Understudies** ..... Idman Adan, Gabrielle Dominique\*,  
..... Jenessa Iverson, Xan Mattek, Dariana Perez

**THE MUSICIANS**

**Piano/Music Director** ..... Sonja Thompson•  
**Guitar** ..... Kyle Baker•  
**Bass** ..... Chris Smith•  
**Drums** ..... Josh Carlson•

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Ron Peluso, Susan Marks, the archivists of General Mills, Laurie Flanigan Hegge, Elissa Adams, The Playwrights' Center, Augsburg University Theatre Department Costume Shop, Macalester College Theatre Department Costume Shop, Costume Collective and University of Minnesota Department of Theatre and Dance



**National  
New Play  
Network**



The Director is a member of the  
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

• Member of Actors' Equity Association  
‡ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.  
\* Member of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians  
# Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

## ARTISTIC TEAM

Book and Additional Lyrics .....	Cristina Luzárraga
Music and Lyrics .....	Denise Prosek
Director .....	Maija García ‡
Music Director .....	Sonja Thompson•
Orchestrator .....	Jason Hansen
Choreographer .....	Renee Guittar
Scenic & Costume Designer .....	Sarah Bahr#
Lighting Designer .....	Karin Olson
Video Designer .....	Leslie Ritenour
Cinematographer .....	Ryan Melling
Properties Designer .....	Ursula Bowden
Sound Designer .....	C Andrew Mayer
Production Manager & Stage Manager .....	Lee Johnson*
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Jaya Robillard
Intimacy Coach .....	Alli St. John

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Master Electrician .....	Nick Fetting
Stage Electricians .....	Sasha Blinnikova, Noah Davis, Anna Gutow, Lauren Lochen, Phillip Uttech, Kelley Yount
Master Carpenter .....	Zachary Morgan
Carpenters .....	Jensen Bailey, Tobias Gilbert, Nathaniel Glewwe, Ian Iosso, Phillip Uttech
Scenic Charge .....	Erika Soukup
Costume Assistant .....	Meghan Kent
Stitcher .....	Vicki French
ASL Interpreters .....	James Gardner, Erin Gardner
Audio Describer .....	Elena Centor
Open Captioner .....	Laura Weiber

## STAFF

<b>ARTISTIC DIRECTOR</b> .....	<b>Richard D. Thompson</b>
New Works & Producing Associate .....	Laura Leffler
Production Manager .....	Lee Johnson*
Technical Director .....	Gunther Gullickson
Master Electrician .....	Nick Walberg
<b>MANAGING DIRECTOR</b> .....	<b>Karen Mueller</b>
Administrative & Marketing Manager .....	Ashton Schneider
Education Manager .....	Paul de Cordova
Development Director .....	Rob Thomas
Development Assistant .....	Faith DuBose
Grant Writer .....	Jessica Huang
Audience Development Director .....	Chari Hall
Group Sales Manager and Volunteer Coordinator .....	Craig Cerrato
Box Office Associate .....	Daniel Evans
Front of House .....	Lu Chen, Anne Hammel, Janet Hall, Monique Franson, Brigit Van Gemergen
Marketing Director .....	Erica Skarohlid
Marketing Consultant .....	In-Fin Tuan



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



MAIJA GARCÍA

‘Cooking is technical, but it’s also ancestral. Food is Love...’ Cristina Luzárraga & Denise Prosek have penned an instant classic - imprinting the music of a century on our hearts and minds - with ‘I Am Betty.’

The story of Betty Crocker is an anthology of ingenuity; it’s all about the women behind the brand.

From Marjorie Child Husted to Marcia Copeland, Barbara Jo Davis and the thousands of women who dedicated their lives in the test kitchens and offices of Washburn-Crosby Company and General Mills, this musical honors your legacy.

‘I Am Betty’ is also an anthem to women from all walks of life, across time and space. Those who carry, cultivate, cook, create and care for us... whose dreams and desires deserve to be centered and whose ideas and innovations ought to be realized.

I encourage you to embrace the art of transformation as you travel in time with us from 1921 to 2021. An ensemble of nine extraordinary actors will play many roles along the way, inviting you to suspend your disbelief - just like Betty.

Whatever your connection or aversion to the icon, Betty Crocker made an indelible mark on American style and sensibility. Millions of women sought her support and counsel, and the Bettys who responded set the standard for consumer marketing. For generations, women have defined or differentiated their lives by her influence. To speak of Betty, is to speak of millions. Was she real, people ask? Yes, I say. Very. Betty is plural. (She may as well use they/them pronouns.)

As Marcia Copeland, the longest serving head of the home service department at General Mills said: “It takes about 40 of us at a time to be Betty.” It’s a statement that holds true for this show, too.

Enjoy...

*Majja García*



## FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT AND COMPOSER



CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA



DENISE PROSEK

As artists, as moms, and as people just trying to get dinner on the table, we owe a debt of gratitude to the visionary women who worked at the Home Service Department and the Betty Crocker Test Kitchens. Thank you for your tireless efforts to validate all women as we balance the demands of homemaking and careers.

Betty Crocker means many things to many people. To us, she represents two sides of a coin: inspiration, innovation, empathy, and an icon of forced domesticity. But whichever side you land on (or both), there is no denying her impact on women across the nation and the world. It has been an honor to tell the stories of the women who embodied Betty Crocker and the women affected by her influence. That could not have happened without the contributions of Barbara Jo Davis, Marcia Copeland, and Joyce Gauck. Thank you for generously sharing your stories with us.

Maija García, much more than a director, has been an active collaborator and invested her whole being into bringing this piece to life. She has shaped the story from beginning to end, and we are eternally grateful.

*From Denise: I dedicate I Am Betty to my mother, Gay, who earned her bachelor's degree in Home Economics. She met my father, got married, and left her career to stay home and raise me and my sister. She was and will always be Betty Crocker to me. Special thanks to my husband, Milton, and my two sons, Hamilton, and Carter.*

*From Cristina: I dedicate this musical to my grandmothers Maria Teresa Forcade Luzárraga and Jeannine Robert Ilario. Immigrants to the U.S. from Cuba and Québec respectively, they embraced many elements of American culture, culinary and otherwise, but never let go of their roots. Over the course of writing this show, I married my husband Torrey and gave birth to my daughter Luisa. Much love to them, and to my parents Alberto and Rosanne, as they helped keep the home fires burning.*

We begin and end the show with the words, "I'm here." It encapsulates what people of all genders feel every day, with every emotion that phrase implies. While juggling all our obligations, we also strive to appreciate life in all its twist and turns. And for this day, for this moment, I'm here.

*Cristina Luzárraga  
Denise Prosek*



THE CAST



**RUTHIE BAKER (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** *The Boy Wonder* (understudy), *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*; Tent Theatre: 9 to 5; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Violet*; Riverside Theatre: *Sisters of Swing*. **Other:** Founder, Second Fiddle Productions, licensed realtor, 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). [ruthiebaker.com](http://ruthiebaker.com) IG: [@ruthieshouseandhome](https://www.instagram.com/ruthieshouseandhome)



**CAMRYN BUELOW (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Merrily We Roll Along*; Artistry: *Little Women*; Sidekick Theatre: *Marvelous Wonderettes*; Theater L'homme Dieu: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; Lyric Arts: *Smoke! Joe's Cafe*. **Training:** BFA Musical Theatre, Dance minor, UMN-Duluth. **Info:** [Camrynbuelow.com](http://Camrynbuelow.com). IG: [@Camrynbuelow](https://www.instagram.com/Camrynbuelow)



**ERIN CAPELLO (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** *The Christmas Schooner* (2001, 2002), *A Servants Christmas* (2003, 2022). **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Next To Normal*, *Evita*, *Light In The Piazza*, *Steerage Song*, *Puttin on the Ritz*, *Next!*;

Johnny Skeekey Stages Theater: *Jack and Rochelle*; The Minnesota Opera: *The Elephant Man*; Chanhassen Dinner Theater: *Swing!*; Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company: *The Sorcerer Cardinal*; *Theatricals: Rocky Horror Live!* **Upcoming:** Theater Latté Da: *Johnny Skeekey*.



**TIFFANY COOPER\* (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** **Broadway:** *Bombay Dreams*, **National Tour:** *Guys and Dolls*, *Bombays*; Guthrie: *Blackness is festival*; Chanhassen: *The Prom*; Walnut Street Theater: *Buddy Holly Show*; Helen Hayes Theater: *Jesus*

*Christ Superstar*; Oregon Cabaret Theater: *Mama Mia*; Perseverance Theater Alaska: *In The Next Room*; Cyrano's Theater Alaska: *Clybourne Park*; Playhouse Theater: *Fences*. **International:** *Grease Das Musical* (Germany, Switzerland) **Opera:** *Porgy and Bess* (Austria); Cunard World Cruise: Vocalist. **Concert:** Solo, *A Tribute to Julie London*. **Film:** *Emma Was Here*. **TV:** ABC, NBC, Hallmark Channel. **Other:** Podcast co-host, Radically Curious Conversations, Executive Speech Coach and Certified Life Coach. **Training:** BS Speech, Communications and Theater, Dance minor Murray State University, Trained teaching artist and coach. [tiffanycooper.com](http://tiffanycooper.com)



**LYNNEA DOUBLETTE\* (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*. **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Company: *Footloose*; Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park: *The Lorax*; Children's Theatre: *Three Little Birds*;

Theater Latté Da: *Violet*; Guthrie Theater: *Caroline or Change*; Stages Theatre: *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*; Illusion Theater: *Autistic License*; Zephyr Theater: *Mamma Mia*; Theatre in the Round: *Lystrata*. **Film:** *Turnipseed*, *Autistic License* and *His Neighbor Phil*. **Training:** M.Sc. Healthcare Communications, St. Thomas University. "Lord You're Showin' out and I love it!" 2 **Corinthians 3:17** **Upcoming:** Theater Latté Da: *The Color Purple*.



**JENNIFER GRIMM\* (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Lost In Boston*, *Christmas Carole Peterson*, *Steerage Song*, *Puttin' On The Ritz*; Park Square Theatre: *Words By*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Holidate*; Cowles Center: *Who Brought The Humbug*; Ordway: *My Way*, *Johnny Mercer Songbook*, *Broadway Mixtape Live*; Interact Theater: *Work Of Heart*. **Concerts:** Carnegie Hall, Pantages Minneapolis, Dakota. **Voiceover:** RMC, Target, Caribou Coffee, Famous Dave's. **Original Composition:** NBC, USA, Showtime, Hulu, the CW, TLC, Netflix. **Other:** Music Director, Crooners Supper Club. [jennifergrimm.com](http://jennifergrimm.com)



**ANNA HASHIZUME\* (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *Into the Woods*; Theater Latté Da: *Hello, Dolly!*, *La Bohème*, *NEXT Festival*; Full Circle Theater Company: *Fire in the New World*; Artistry: *Mary Poppins*; Open Eye Theatre: *LOG JAM!*;

Theatre Elision: *Of Art and Artists*; Lyric Arts: *Sense and Sensibility*; Mixed Precipitation: *The Clemency of Tito*, *Dr. Falstaff*, *Philemon and Baucis*. **Opera:** The Muses Project: *Die Fledermaus*; Fargo Moorhead Opera: *Don Giovanni*, *Speed Dating Tonight!*; An Opera Theatre: *The Sky Where You Are*, *In the Midst of Things*; Minnesota Opera: *La Traviata*, *Thais*; Lyric Opera of the North: *Rigoletto*. **Awards:** The Schubert Club Scholarship Competition. **Training:** M.M., U of MN; B.S.O.F., Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. IG: [@annahashizume](https://www.instagram.com/annahashizume), [annahashizume.com](https://www.instagram.com/annahashizume)



**OLIVIA KEMP (she/they)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol*; The Birth Play Project: *Aquelarres*; Guthrie Dowling Studio: *Troilus and Cressida*. **Other:** Sondheim Cabaret (self-produced). **Training:** UMN/Guthrie **Upcoming:** Yellow Tree Theatre: *Toil and Trouble*. [oliviakemp.com](https://www.instagram.com/oliviakemp.com) IG: [@kempolivia](https://www.instagram.com/kempolivia)



**KIKO LAUREANO\* (she/her)**

*Ensemble*  
**History Theatre:** *Runestone! A Rock Musical*. **Theater:** Theater L'Homme Dieu: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; Children's Theatre Company: *An American Tail*; Lyric Arts of Anoka: *Something Rotten*, *The Revolutionists*,

*Evita*; Minnetonka Theatre: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Lakeshore Players: *Company*; Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol*; Mixed Blood Theatre: *Autonomy*. **Training:** BFA Musical Theatre, Indiana University. [kikolaureano.com](http://kikolaureano.com). IG: [@klaureano](https://www.instagram.com/klaureano)

THE MUSICIANS



**KYLE BAKER • (he/him)**

Guitar

**History Theatre:** *The Boy Wonder, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee 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.*



**JOSH CARLSON • (he/him)**

Drums

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres (CDT): *Footloose, The Prom.* Theatre Latté Da (TLD): *Assassins.* Sub: CDT: *Newsies, Holiday Inn, Mamma Mia, Jersey Boys; TLD: Man of La Mancha;*

Children's Theatre Company: *Matilda, How the Grinch Stole Christmas.* **Other:** US Tour, Dallas Brass; Percussion/Timpani with Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony, and Lakes Area Music Festival. **Training:** BA Music, Gustavus Adolphus College. **Upcoming:** CDT: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.*



**CHRIS SMITH • (he/him)**

Bass

**History Theatre:** *Snapshots/Life in the City.* **Theater:** Theatre Latté Da: *Jelly's Last Jam.* Actors Temple Theatre NY: *Fried Chicken and Latkes.* **Other:** Grammy (bass on Kendrick Lamar's best rap performance, rap song "i");

Grammy nomination/Baylor project best vocal jazz/trad r&b. **Training:** Brubeck Institute, University of the Pacific; Bachelors of Music New School; Masters in Music Rutgers University. IG @cee.smith



**SONJA THOMPSON • (she/her)**

Music Director, Keyboard

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Music-Theater/Opera:** Frank Theater: *Threepenny Opera, The Cradle Will Rock; Nautilus Music-Theater: Joan of Arc, Moonlit Walk Home; Theater Latté Da: Old Wicked Songs, La Bohème*

Open Eye Figure Theatre: *The Longest Night, Songs to the Moon;* Southern Theatre: *1918; Skylark Opera: Berlin to Broadway; Minnesota Opera: Norma, Tosca, The Pirates of Penzance, The Aspern Papers, Romeo and Juliette, A Midsummer Night's Dream.* **Other:** Asst. Professor of Music Augsburg University; Music Director/Advisor for Augsburg Theatre: *Pirates of Penzance, Suor Angelica, Into the Woods, A Little Night Music, Weird Romance, Passing Strange, As You Like It, Our Town, Blood Wedding, The Misanthrope, Antigone;* Producer: *All That We Carry; Voyages* (Fringe Festival, 2009); *Angels.* **Teaching/Performing:** Composer-Librettist Studios (Nautilus Music Theater, New Dramatists (NYC), Alliance for New Music Theatre (DC). Concert appearances include Griegakademie (Bergen, Norway), MN Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival, Victoria (TX) Bach

Festival, VocalEssence, Schubert Club, A Prairie Home Companion, Alexandria Festival of the Lakes. **Training:** The University of Minnesota (BM), The Juilliard School (MM). Recordings on Centaur and Innova labels.

THE UNDERSTUDIES



**IDMAN ADAN (she/her)**

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol, The Tempest;* Theatre Latté Da: *NEXT Festival 2023: Love Them First.* **Training:** Mitchell Hamline School of Law.



**GABRIELLE DOMINIQUE\* (she/her)**

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Arena Stage: *Ride The Cyclone* (Constance Blackwood); The 5th Ave: *The Wiz* (Evillene U/S); Guthrie: *West Side Story* (Rosalia), *Guys & Dolls, South Pacific, A Christmas Carol, Romeo & Juliet; Ordway: West Side*

*Story* (Rosalia, Maria U/S); Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Mamma Mia!*; Children's Theatre Company: *Annie, I Come From Arizona;* Theatre Latté Da: *Jelly's Last Jam;* Artistry: *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Schwartz), *Shrek, Best Little Whorehouse... Oklahoma!*; Jungle Theater: *Ride The Cyclone* (Constance Blackwood). **Opera:** Minnesota Opera: *Flight.* **Dance:** Collide Theatrical Dance Company: *Our Stories;* Flying Foot Forum: *Cookaphony.* **Training:** B.A. Dance & Theatre, St. Olaf College. Proud member of AEA. "Much love to Mom, Dad, Takeyah, Matt & Somer!"



**JENESSA IVERSON (she/they)**

**History Theatre:** *The Boy Wonder*

(pit bassist) **Theater:** Minnesota Opera: *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna; 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:** *All About Jane, The Hive Collaborative.* Info: [jenessaiverson.com](http://jenessaiverson.com); IG: @jenessa\_iverson.



**XAN MATTEK (she/her)**

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Fortune's Fool Theater: *Cold Planet Warm Heart; Wildwood Theater: Bare: A Pop Opera; Old Log Theater: Once Upon a Mattress, Escape to Margaritaville;* Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol.* **Training:** BFA,

Musical Theatre, Wichita State University. [xanmattek.com](http://xanmattek.com) IG: @xanmattek



**DARIANA PEREZ (she/her)**

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Ten Thousand Things: *Twelfth Night; Guthrie Dowling Studio: Troilus & Cressida; Hangar Theatre: Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812; Sunday in Sodom/A Parsifal;* The Birth Play Project: *Aquelarres; Full Circle*

Theatre Company: *Antigonick.* **Training:** UMN/Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program [darianaelise.com](http://darianaelise.com) IG: @dariana.elise

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

**CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA (she/her)***Book and Additional Lyrics*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theatre:** Core Writer and former Jerome and McKnight Fellow at the Playwrights' Center; developed and presented new work at Ensemble Studio Theatre (NYC), Clubbed Thumb; *Autorefract*; PlayMakers Repertory: *Critical Distance*; Teatro LATEA: *Havana Syndrome*; IATI: *Millennialville*; DalekoArts: *The Amazon Guy Cometh*; Blank Theatre: *La Mujer Barbuda*. **Awards:** 2019 Screencraft Stage Play Award, 2019 Princess Grace Finalist, 2022 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow Finalist. **Training:** Chicago: Second City Conservatory; BA Princeton; MFA Ohio University.

**DENISE PROSEK (she/her)***Music and Lyrics*

**History Theatre:** *Meet Me at the Fair*. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: Co-founder. As Music Director: *Twelve Angry Men*; Chicago, *Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd*; Guthrie Theater: *Into The Woods*; *Guys and Dolls* (Associate); *West Side Story* (Associate); Children's Theatre Company: *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Peter Pan*, *Shrek*. **Theater Mu:** *Again*, *Into The Woods*; Park Square: *Pirates Of Penzance*; *Color Purple*; Artistry: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. **Other:** Founder of Prosidy—a songwriting collaborative; featured in TPT's MN Original. **Awards:** 2013-14 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow at the Playwrights' Center; 2012 Theater Artist of the Year (Lavender); Outstanding Musical Director, *Parade and Gypsy* (*Star Tribune*). **Training:** BM, Piano Performance, ST. Olaf College. **Upcoming:** Children's Theatre Company: *Frog and Toad*; Guthrie: *Little Shop of Horrors*.

**MAIJA GARCÍA† (she/her/ella)***Director*

**History Theatre:** *I Am Betty* (Raw Stages). **Theater:** *Our Hood* (John Leguizamo), *VALOR*, *Tanta Bulla y Pa' Que*, *The Tempest*, *West Side Story* (Guthrie Theater), *FELA!* (Broadway, The National Theater of London), *Ybor City* (Latine Musical Theater Lab), *Kiss My Aztec* (Berkeley Rep & La Jolla Playhouse), *Hatuey* (Montclair Peak Performances), *Salsa Mambo Cha Cha Cha* (Havana, Cuba), *Another Word for Beauty* (Goodman Theater), *Cuba Libre* (Artists Rep), *I am NY: Juan Rodriguez & Ghosts of Manhattan* (Organic Magnetics). **Film:** *Chi-Raq* & *Blackkklansman* (Spike Lee). **TV:** *She's Gotta Have It* (Netflix) **Music:** *Fats Waller Dance Party* (Harlem Stage, SF Jazz, The Kennedy Center). **Dance:** Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company. Member of SDC since 2008. **Upcoming:** *Water Riot* (National Black Theater and New York Live Arts). @maijagarcia www.maijagarcia.com

**JASON HANSEN (he/him)***Orchestrator*

**History Theatre:** *Raw Stages*, *Sweet Land - The Musical*. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Falsettos*, *Next to Normal*, *Hello Dolly*, *Christmas at the Local*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *A Little Night Music*, *Once, Assassins*, *C...*, *Into The Woods*, *Our Town*, *Aida*; *NEXT Festival: The Last Babushka*, *A Child's Christmas In Wales*; Children's Theatre Company: *American Tail*, *Cinderella*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Dr. Seuss's The Sneeches*; Guthrie Theater: *Into The Woods*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Othello*; Mixed Blood Theater: *Passing Strange*, *Next To Normal*, *Avenue Q*; Stages Theater Company: *Once On This Island*, *Tuck Everlasting*; Theater Mu: *Twelfth Night*, *A Little Night Music*;

Chanhasen Dinner Theaters: *Newsies*; Ten Thousand Things: *Romeo & Juliet*; Arkansas Repertory Theater: *The Gift Of The Magi*; Northern Sky Theater, Illusion Theater, Artistry, TigerLion Arts, Open Eye Figure Theater, Jungle Theater, theMN Fringe Festival, theHenpen Theater Trust. **Awards:** MN Theater Award, 2018 (Theater Latté Da's *Assassins*). **Upcoming:** Theater Latté Da *Christmas At The Local*, *Stones In His Pockets*.

**RENEE GUITTAR (she/her)***Choreographer*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Merrily We Roll Along*, Chanhasen Dinner Theaters: *Footloose*; The Ordway: *Disney's Beauty And The Beast* (Associate Choreographer), *Collide Theatrical Dance Company*. **Educational Theater:** Spotlight Showcase, Hill-Murray High School, North Saint Paul High School and Two Rivers High School. **Performance:** Chanhasen Dinner Theaters: *Disney's Beauty & The Beast*, *Camelot*, *Grease*, *Newsies*, *Holiday Inn*, *Mamma Mia!*; Guthrie: *The Music Man*; Theater Latté Da: *Heroic Acts of Music!*; Ordway: *In The Heights*, *A Chorus Line*, *Gotta Dance! Cabaret*; Old Log Theater: *The Wedding Singer*; Company member, *Collide Theatrical Dance Company* since 2013. **Teaching:** Ashley Ballet Arts Academy, Cowles Center. **Training:** Gustavus Adolphus College. Member, Actor's Equity Association. **Upcoming:** Artistry: *Newsies*.

**SARAH BAHR# (she/her)***Scenic & Costume Designer*

**History Theatre:** *Root Beer Lady*, *Parks: A Portrait of a Young Artist*. **Theater:** Artistry: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Great River Shakespeare Festival: *A Winter's Tale*; Minnesota Opera: *Don Giovanni*, *Albert Herring*, *Romeo & Juliet*; Ten Thousand Things: *Emilia*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Thunder Knocking at the Door*, *Sins of Sor Juana*; Trademark Theater: *5, The Hollow*, *Understood*, *The Boy and Robin Hood*; Theater Latté Da: *We Shall Someday*, *To Let Go and Fall*; Jungle Theater: *Georgiana and Kitty*, *Redwood*, *The Wickhams*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *The Wolves*, *Miss Bennet*, *Hand to God*, *Lone Star Sprits*, *Anna in the Tropics*. **Training:** MFA Design and Technical Theatre U of MN, MA Studio Art New York University. **Upcoming:** Theater Latté Da: *Stones in His Pockets*. sarahbahr@me.com, IG: @sarahbahrdesign

**KARIN OLSON (she/her)***Lighting Designer*

**History Theatre:** *The Defeat of Jesse James*, *Runestone! A Rock Musical*, *River Road Boogie*, *Debutante's Ball*. **Theater:** MN Opera: *Song Poet*; Alliance Theater: *Into the Burrow*; Theater Mu: *Kung Fu Zombie saga*; PRIME/Park Square: *The Revolutionists*; Jungle: *Redwood*, *Cambodian Rock Band*, *The Wolves*; Guthrie: *Valor*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*; Cleveland Playhouse: *Antigone*; Childrens Theater: *Spamtown, USA!*; Trinity Rep: *Fuente Ovejuna*, *A Christmas Carol*; Ordway: *West Side Story*; HERbeat, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Trademark Theater, Skylark Opera, Mixed Blood Theater, Frank Theater, Full Circle Theater, Artistry, Stages Theater Company, Penumbra, Twin Cities Ballet, TU dance, Alternative Motion Project, Threats Dance Project. **Awards:** 23-24 McKnight Theater Artist. **Other:** *HandPrints: Cineplay w/ Ten Thousand Things*. **Upcoming:** Mu Performing Arts: *Hell's Canyon*; History Theatre: *Handprints*. karinolsonlighting.com

BIOS continue to page 12

# BETTY CROCKER TIMELINE



The Betty Crocker Portraits top row (l-r) 1936, 1955, 1965, 1969; bottom row (l-r) 1972, 1980, 1986, and 1996. Neysa McMein is the artist behind the first Betty portrait in 1936.

**Betty Crocker is an icon, who celebrated her 100th birthday in 2021. Her rich legacy has shaped American history and brought joy to celebrations big and small.**

## **1921 Betty Crocker is created.**

The persona of Betty Crocker is introduced by the Washburn-Crosby Company (now General Mills) thanks to a Gold Medal Flour puzzle contest shared in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Along with 30,000 completed puzzles came hundreds of baking and cooking questions and Betty Crocker was created to respond to inquiries.

## **1924 Betty Crocker makes her radio debut.**

Betty receives a voice when she is featured on the company's radio station WCCO for "Gold Medal Flour Home Service Talks." "The Betty Crocker School of the Air" follows and becomes one of

the longest running shows in radio history.

## **1930 Betty Crocker teaches families how to eat nutritious for less during the Great Depression**

Betty Crocker develops recipes for low-cost dishes without sacrificing essential standards of nutrition, which win recognition among social workers and nutritionists.

## **1931 Bisquick is released by General Mills along with Betty Crocker recipes for the product's use.**

Bisquick's "miracle mix" has evolved throughout the years, inspiring home cooks and bakers for decades.



Betty Crocker School of the Air becomes one of the longest shows in radio history.

## **1936 First official Betty Crocker portrait is revealed**

Neysa McMein is the artist behind the first Betty portrait. Since then, there have been eight official Betty Crocker portraits meant to emulate an approachable friendly, competent and professional woman – the last one is created in 1996.

## **1941 "Split Pea Soup" the first product with Betty Crocker's name on it is introduced**



# BETTY CROCKER TIMELINE



The Gold Medal Flour puzzle contest was shared in the Saturday Evening Post in 1921.



(left) Betty Crocker "As-You-Like-It" cake. (right) Bisquick's creation was inspired by a train ride to San Francisco. Carl Smith, a General Mills salesman asked the train's chef to make something quickly, nothing fancy and not too much trouble. He was impressed by the plate of piping hot biscuits the cook whipped up on demand. The cook's secret: a pre-mixed blend of flour, baking powder, lard and salt on ice. This became the inspiration for a product that is still deliciously convenient more than 80 years later.



**1950**  
**Betty Crocker introduces cake mixes that require the addition of eggs.**

After consumer testing shows that consumers wanted to add their own ingredients for more 'genuine' cakes, Betty Crocker sets itself apart from competitors with this advertising slogan: "Betty Crocker Cake Mixes bring you that Special Homemade Goodness...Because You Add the Eggs Yourself!"

**1950**  
**The first Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook is published and becomes a national bestseller.**

More than 75 million copies of the book have been sold since it was first published in 1950.

**1954**  
**General Mills debuts the iconic red spoon Betty Crocker logo.**

**1956**  
**Betty Crocker introduces "Records for the Blind" to reach blind bakers.**

Betty Crocker distributes three ten-inch records with voice instructions that guide blind home bakers through recipes. At the time less than 20 percent of blind were able to read Braille.

**1958**  
**Betty Crocker Test Kitchens move to Golden Valley, MN.**

**1985**  
**The Betty Crocker Test Kitchens close to visitors after offering an estimated 1.5 million people tours.**

**1996**  
**Following a contest to find the next face of Betty Crocker, 75 contest winners' faces are merged with the previous portrait to create a new Betty—the first ever to have brown eyes instead of blue.**

**1943**  
**Betty Crocker inspires meal ideas during WWII**

At the request of the U.S. Office of War Information, Betty Crocker is the personality behind a radio program called "Our Nation's Rations" to help

home bakers make the most of rationed foods during WWII.

**1945**  
**Betty Crocker is named the second best-known woman following the First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, according to Fortune Magazine.**

**C ANDREW MAYER (he/him)**

*Sound Designer*

**History Theatre:** Over 80 shows including *The Defeat of Jesse James, Not For Sale, Not in our Neighborhood!, Gloria: A Life, Dirty Business, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, All the Way, Watermelon Hill, Glensheen, Hiding in the Open, Tyrone and Ralph, A Piece of the Rope, Hmong! The CIA Secret Army.* **Theater:** Jungle Theatre, Pillsbury House, Theater Latte Da, Theater Mu, Illusion, Six Points, Lyric Opera Kansas City, Opera Colorado, Everyman (Baltimore), ACT (San Francisco), many others. **Awards:** McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow, Audelco Award for Carlyle Brown's *Pure Confidence.* **Other:** Producing Director, Acadia Repertory Theatre, Mount Desert Island, Maine.

**URSULA BOWDEN (she/her)**

*Properties Designer*

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Theater Mu: *Kung Fu Zombie Saga;* nimbus theatre: *A Count Up to Christmas, The Red and the Bright, The Remarkable Life and Pathetic Afterlife of Elmer McCurdy,* and over 20 other titles; UMN Theatre and Dance Department: *Pride and Prejudice, Troilus and Cressida, The Amateurs, Silent Sky, School for Lies, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, She Kills Monsters.* Open Door Community Theatre: *School of Rock, The Little Mermaid.* Park Square Theatre: *Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Pageant, The Pirates of Penzance.* As well as productions at Swandive Theatre, Theatre Pro Rata, Theatre Unbound, Six Elements Theatre, Drake University Theatre, Hamline University Theatre, 20% Theatre, Woodbury Community Theatre, Circus Juventas, Frank Theatre, Theater Latte Da, overhire props artisan for The Guthrie Theatre, Minnesota Opera. **Awards:** Featured in American Theatre Magazine for design of an *Outopia for Pigeons.*

**Training:** BFA Theatrical Design and Technical Theatre at Drake University. Upcoming: *Unique Assignment,* History Theatre. *A Very Electric Christmas,* nimbus theatre. *F\*cking A,* and *Anne Boleyn,* U of M. *Tarzan,* Open Door Community Theatre.

**LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)**

*Video Designer*

**History Theatre:** *The Defeat of Jesse James, The Root Beer Lady, Diesel Heart.* **Theater:** UMN-TAD: *She Kills Monsters, Silent Sky.* **Training:** U of MN-Twin Cities B.A. Theatre Arts; B.S. Psychology. [Lritenour.com](http://Lritenour.com)

**LEE JOHNSON\* (he/him)**

*Stage Manager & Production Manager*

**History Theatre:** *Glensheen, Buddy; The Buddy Holly Story, Parks.* **Theater:** The Duluth Playhouse: *Annie;* Artistry Theatre: Over 20 productions including *The Bridges of Madison County, A New Brain, Victor/Victoria, She Loves Me, Legally Blonde, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat;* Lyric Opera of the North: *Hansel & Gretel.* Other Twin Cities credits: Theater Latte Da, Park Square Theater, Mu Performing Arts, Flying Foot Forum, EMK, Twin Cities Horror Festival, MN Fringe Festival, and others. Production Stage Manager, Artistry Theatre (2017-20). **Training:** B.A. in Theatre Arts, U of MN, Twin Cities.

**JAYA ROBILLARD (she/her)**

*Assistant Stage Manager*

**History Theatre:** *The Defeat of Jesse James.* **Theater:** Minnesota Opera: *The Daughter of the Regiment;* Park Square Theatre: *The Snowy Day, Airness, Pride & Prejudice, Romeo & Juliet;* Sandbox Theatre: *Light My Way, Words Do Move, Queens;* Artistry Theatre: *Songs for a New World;* Theater Mu: *Peerless.* **Upcoming:** Guthrie Theatre: *A Brittle Glory.*

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history theatre

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