

Cast Bios!

Adam Abruzzo (Oscar) is making his Heritage Players debut as your loveably shy (with severely antiquated thoughts about male/female interactions) Oscar Lindquist. Adam has been involved in the central MD theater scene since December 2014 but has performed at least annually throughout high school and college as well. Some of Adam's favorite past shows include *Dog Sees God*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Wild Oats*, *Into the Woods*, and *Spamalot*. Professionally, Adam is a physical therapist with Move For Life PT at the Lighthouse Senior Living Community in Ellicott City where he assists patients achieve their goals of leading an independent lifestyle. Special thanks always goes out to family, friends, and Dr. Kevin Pry, associate professor of English and Dramaturg of Lebanon Valley College's Wig and Buckle Theater Company for knowing everything and passing some knowledge on to his students. Excited to say that this is my first show EVER with my lovely wife Rachel. You're the finest dancer I know and I'm excited to see all you will accomplish in your life. Love always. Enjoy the show!

Rachel Abruzzo (Featured Ensemble) is excited to be returning to the stage in *Sweet Charity*! She was last seen in *The Laramie Project* at Salisbury University. She is also excited to be joining her husband on stage for the first time. Rachel would like to thank her family for all their love and support. To Adam, love always.

Amie Bell (Carmen/Featured Ensemble) is excited to be making her Heritage Players debut dancing in this iconic musical! Amie recently returned to the world of theater after running the dance program at Garrison Forest School for 10 years. Amie choreographed *Spring Awakening* (Spotlighters Theatre, Baltimore MD) which earned her a 2017 Broadway World Baltimore nomination for Best Choreography. Recent on-stage roles include Lucy in *The Women* and Dolly Vixen in *The Threepenny Opera* (Spotlighters Theatre, Baltimore MD). Amie is a graduate of the Martha Graham School in New York City. While in New York, Amie performed in the dance companies of Jeanne Ruddy, DeWarren Moses, Laura Marchese, and Mark Dendy. Love to Sam, Alyssa, and Ben, and to Timoth and the rest of the *Sweet Charity* cast and crew for making this show such a great experience.

Christine (Steeny) Benkoski (Dance Captain/Featured Ensemble): is thrilled to be back with the Heritage Players. She was last seen as Ruth in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Heritage Players), and as ensemble in *Spamalot* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia, MD). Dance is woven into Steeny's soul and acting like a normal, able-to-sit-still person is her greatest challenge. She'd like to thank her husband Jason and her 4-year-old son Brent for indulging her lunacy.

Libby Burgess (Lead Frug Dancer/Featured Ensemble) is happy to be returning to Heritage Players after previously performing as Logainne in *Spelling Bee* in 2016. In 2014 she was awarded "Best Featured Actress in a Musical" by DC Metro Theater Arts for her performance as Cosette in *Les Misérables* (Glyndon Area Players, Glyndon MD). Favorite past roles also include Judy Haynes in *White Christmas*, Helen Burns in *Jane Eyre: The Musical*, and Emily Arden in *State Fair*. Other past credits include *Legally Blonde* and *Crybaby* (Silhouette Stages, Columbis MD) as well as *The Addams Family*, *9 to 5*, and *All Shook Up* (DCT, Dundalk MD). Huge thanks to the production team, cast, and her family for being so supportive!

Mia Coulbourne (Ensemble) is excited to be continuing her journey with Heritage and to be a part of this production. This is Mia's twelfth show and some other roles she has portrayed are Paulette in *Legally Blonde*, Telly in *Godspell*, Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods* and Martha Dunnstock in *Heathers*. She would like to thank her friends and family and production team for their constant support and for

always picking her up when she is down: through their humor and love she will always be at peace, she wouldn't trade them for the world.

Daniel Douek (Vittorio Vidal). He is thrilled to be back at the Heritage Players! He has appeared in numerous shows and musicals and directed shows like *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Man of La Mancha*. Favorite acting past credits are Tito Merelli in *Lend me a Tenor* (Heritage Players), Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Franz in *The Producers*, Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Warwick in *Edward II*, Gary in *I Hate Hamlet* and Vasques in *Tis Pity She's a Whore*. Thanks to Timoth for this great opportunity to perform another Italian Divo with Heritage. I am loving this cast full of energy and talent. As always thanks to mi amor, mi vida Shealyn for supporting me!

Johnny Dunkerly (Ensemble) is joining Heritage Players for a second time. He was recently seen as the Bellboy in *Titanic: In Concert* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD), a Whiffle in *Cry-Baby* and Carlos in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD). Currently, he attends Anne Arundel Community College where he is pursuing a degree in Visual Arts. In his free time, he loves to be with his precious dog and cat, as well as hang out with his family and friends. Nearly every Sunday, he sings on the worship team at his church. He would like to thank his parents, sister, and friends for their never ending support.

Angel Duque (Ensemble) is beyond grateful to debut at Heritage Players in this show. Angel's past roles include Pinocchio in *Shrek: The Musical* and Bert Healy in *Annie* (Charm City Players, Baltimore MD), and Marty Jackson in *The Full Monty* (Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Annapolis MD). Angel also took part in the Silhouette Stages' 2018 Winter Cabaret (Columbia, MD).

Apollo Duque (New York Canine Citizen) comes in wagging his tail for his debut on stage! He wouldn't trade this experience for any number of treats, especially since he receives plenty of them backstage. Apollo would like to thank the production team for this opportunity, and the rest of the cast for all the head scratches and belly rubs.

Ashley Gerhardt (Nickie) is happy to be back at Heritage after last being seen as Christine in the comedy *Rumors*. Ashley has been performing in professional and community theatre for almost 40 years. Some of her favorite roles include: Elizabeth Benning in *Young Frankenstein*, Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Ilona Ritter in *She Loves Me* and Peter in *Peter Pan*. Ashley is a 10 year Breast Cancer Survivor & would not be here today without the love, courage & support from her family and friends. Ashley is thrilled to perform alongside her husband, Jim who plays Herman. I love you Mr. Lobster!!

Jim Gerhardt (Herman) is excited to be back on stage at Heritage alongside so many talented people who can dance (himself not included in that particular group!). He was last seen here at Heritage as Joe Hardy in *Damn Yankees* in 2015. Some favorite past credits include Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, J. P. Finch in *How to Succeed In Business*, Joseph in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, Albert in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*. Many thanks to Timoth, Mari, and the rest of the production team for the opportunity. He sends all his love to his amazingly talented wife, Ashley, who is playing Nickie.

Aaron Harnamji (Ensemble) is making his Baltimore area theatrical debut. Aaron recently moved north from Ft Lauderdale and has settled down locally. You may have seen his alter ego Curry Ann Durr tearing up the local Drag stages. Curry brings a heavy helping of Indian Goddess with a splash of Brittney Spears.

Megan Mostow (Helene) is excited to be back with the Heritage Players after her Baltimore area debut as Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical the Musical* last summer. Other favorite roles include Susan in Stephen Sondheim's *Company* (Just Off Broadway, Baltimore MD), the Fairy Godmother in *Shrek the Musical* (Rockville Musical Theatre, Rockville MD), and Holly in *The Wedding Singer* (Damascus Theatre Company, Damascus MD). She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support, and understanding of the "I can't, I have rehearsal" lifestyle that she just can't seem to stay away from.

Kelly Rardon (Featured Ensemble) is delighted return to Heritage Players after appearing as Kate Mullins in this season's production of *Titanic: In Concert*. Favorite past roles include Mary Aldin in *Towards Zero* (Cockpit, Essex MD), Louise/Eve in *Ruthless!* (DCT, Dundalk MD), Gloria in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Cockpit), Ann Collier in *The 1940s Radio Hour* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD), Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* (Reisterstown Theater Project, Reisterstown MD), Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* (Phoenix Festival Theater, Bel Air MD), and Mrs. Andersen in *A Little Night Music* (CBT, now Millburn Stone Theater, North East MD). Kelly plays with words for a living, is a singer by night, and talks entirely too much about her cat in between. Extra hugs and kisses go to her best friend Mari, who always lets Kelly sing the high notes.

Kamryn Polastre Scott (Ensemble) is thrilled to appear for the first time at Heritage Players. During high school, he has appeared on *Disney Medley* as Sebastian the Crab and *The Monster in my Closet* as the Maury the Monster. Kamryn has been in *The Mikato* as Pish-Tush, *Spring Awakening* as Georg, *The Producers* as The Stormtrooper, and a few ensemble roles during his time at Goucher College for his Bachelor's in Psychology. This is his first time appearing in a show after 3 years. Kamryn has been musically trained in Opera for 4 years and trained in the art of twerking for all of his life.

Katherine Sheldon (Charity) - Katie is thrilled to be back on stage after a 2 and 1/2 year hiatus. Previously seen at Heritage Players as Lola in *Damn Yankees*, Katie is thrilled to be playing another Gwen Verdon role! Past favorite roles include Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins*, Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, Kristine in *A Chorus Line*, Bonnie in *Anything Goes*, Rose Alvarez in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Nellie Forebush in *South Pacific* and Mother in *Ragtime*. Huge thanks to Timoth and crew for the chance to play such a dream role! To John and Sam: thanks for eating leftovers the past few months and running lines with me.

Angela Stein (Featured Ensemble) is a sixteen-year veteran of the Heritage Players, and was last seen on the HP stage as Miss Flannery/Pearl Lady in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She has stage managed and appeared in many HP productions, and also serves on the company's Board of Directors. Her favorite roles include: Valentine in *Mary Poppins* (September Song, Westminster MD), Bambi in *Curtains* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD), Chastity in *Anything Goes* (Heritage Players), and Rosie in *Cabaret* (CCBC Catonsville Barnstormers). Angie also stage manages and choreographs for the Vagabond Players, performs with Kinetics Dance Company, and is a Licensed Massage Therapist. She would like to thank the cast and crew for a wonderful experience and her friends, family and husband Eric for their love and support throughout this and every endeavor.

Maxine Stitzer-Hodge (Ensemble) is excited to be part of the Sweet Charity cast. A newcomer to the performance world, she participates in the Showtime Singers Chorus of Howard County, Senior Star Showcase at CCBC Essex and the Paint and Powder Club annual fundraiser variety shows. Community theater enriches us all and it's great fun to be a player as well as a patron. A salute to my friends and family and to the Heritage players who have been most welcoming.

Jose Reyes Teneza (Ensemble) is ecstatic to appear once again at Heritage Players after a near two year hiatus from performing. Jose's favorite roles include Dr. Lyman in *Bus Stop*, Dale Harding in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Phantom in *Rocky Horror Show* (Spotlighters, Baltimore MD) and Bun Foo in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD). Jose has also had the opportunity to follow in his dance idol Paula Abdul's footsteps and choreograph two musicals – *Altar Boyz* (Spotlighters, Baltimore MD) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Heritage Players, Catonsville, MD). Jose was also seen in seasons one and two of Landra V. Phillips' *Chocolate City The Series*, a YouTube web series. Jose feels blessed to be able to have theatre as a creative outlet and escape from his demanding job as a Baltimore City Public Defender. Special thanks to Scooter (his husband) for putting up with him and rehearsal schedules, Dan Snyder for igniting the performing bug, and Emily Biondi for being a constant inspiration to live life to the fullest.

Anwar Thomas (Daddy Brubeck) is beyond excited to make his debut with Heritage Players. No stranger to musical theater, he has been performing in Maryland for the past 20 years. Favorite roles include The Lion (replacement) *The Wiz*, and Booker T Washington in *Ragtime* (Toby's Dinner Theater, Columbia MD). Anwar would like to thank his wife Rachael Thomas for all her love and support. His mother Brenda for watching his two-year old son Camden, so Dada can attend rehearsal, much love. And to the best in-laws (Darcy and Jeff Scaringe) for their love and support. "I couldn't do this without any of them. The Rhythm of Life is A Powerful Beat."

Rachel Weir (Featured Ensemble) is ecstatic to appear once again at Heritage Players. Rachel's favorite roles include Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly* (Liberty Showcase Theatre, Reisterstown, MD), Ulla in *The Producers* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD), and Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD). Offstage Rachel is a long distance runner and homeschooling mom to four amazing boys. Special love and thanks to her favorite leading men; Caleb, Nicky, Jackson, and Ben.

Jamie Williams (Rosie/Featured Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Heritage Players debut. Jamie's past roles include Patty Simcox in *Grease* (Old Opera House, Charles Town, WV), Nancy Ralansky in *Do Black Patent Shoes Really Reflect Up?* (Old Opera House, Charles Town, WV), and ensemble in *Cry Baby* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia, MD). Jamie wants to extend love and thanks to her family for always traveling to fill seats at her shows. Jamie also wants to thank her fiancé, Joey, for sitting through countless Bob Fosse videos and supporting her love of performing.

Bailey Wolf (Ursula/Featured Ensemble) is quite pleased to appear in her second show with Heritage Players. You may have seen her recently perform as Lenora Frigid in *Crybaby the Musical* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD) or as a Bird Girl in *Seussical the Musical* here with Heritage. Other favorite roles include Daniela in *In the Heights* and Amneris in *Aida* (The Penn State Thespians, State College PA). An enormous shout out of appreciation to her parents, siblings, and friends for being in that audience for every show and giving all their encouragement and love.

Production Team Bios

Timoth David Copney (Director/Choreographer) is delighted to make his debut with Heritage Players directing and choreographing *Sweet Charity*. Equity performances as a dancer include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *My Fair Lady*, *Music Man*, *Applause* and *Sophisticated Ladies*. Local chorography and/or directing credits include *The Wiz*, *Dreamgirls*, *Carousel*, *Ragtime*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Hello Dolly*, *Songs for a New*

World, Annie, Drowsy Chaperone, Jacques Brell is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, Addams Family and Oliver. A classically trained ballet dancer, he studied at The Alvin Ailey School, The Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Jazz de Montreal and the Grande Ballet Canadienne. Favorite roles as an actor are Belize in *Angels in America*, Bobby in *A Chorus Line*, Henry in *Street Scene*, Walter in *Chess*, Andre in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, for which he made the BroadwayWorld.com's list of 'Best Performances', The Wiz in *The Wiz*, and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. As a singer, he has performed in countless cabarets, specializing in what he calls 'The Big Broad Songbook'. He is a theatre columnist for MD Theatre Guide and the former Vice President of the Baltimore Theatre Alliance, was the Artistic Director of Liberty Showcase Theatre and is on the board of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. He would like to thank his fantastic cast and crew, his incredibly patient husband and the viewing audience for supporting locally sourced theatre in Baltimore. Enjoy the show

Lanoree Blake (Assistant Costumer) is excited to be costuming once again with Heritage. Previous costuming credits include *Into the Woods* (Heritage Players) and *She Kills Monsters* (Spotlighters, Baltimore, MD), in which she also played Tilly. Lanoree thanks Andrew for bringing her in on another project, and Chik-Fil-A for making the post-rehearsal drive that much more bearable.

Jim Gross (Producer) is excited to produce his first show ever! It is an added bonus to have such a talented cast and production team who all worked very hard to make this show as amazing as it is. Last seen at Heritage as Horton in *Seussical the Musical*, Jim is currently the Vice President of the Board of Heritage Players. He will be directing the fantastic musical *Barnum* here in the fall of 2018. Love to Alexandra and Renee for their constant love and support.

Darlene Harris (Stage Manager) is making her second appearance as stage manager at the Heritage Players. Last season, she stage managed *Seussical*. Some other stage managing credits include *The Haunted House* (Roanoke College), *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (RC) and *Mansions* (RC). Darlene has a degree from Roanoke College in Theatre Arts. When not working backstage, Darlene can be found onstage performing, which she enjoys equally. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication, Timoth for the opportunity to work with him on his production team, and her family and friends for all of their unending support.

Amy E. Haynes (Producer) is thrilled to return to the Heritage Players "back"stage after directing *Seussical* last summer. She recently began her term as Secretary of Heritage's Board of Directors, after serving as Historian for several years. Most recently, Amy was seen as Kate McGowan/Mrs. Widener in Heritage's production of *Titanic in Concert* and as Pepper Walker in *Crybaby the Musical* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD). This summer, Amy will be tackling the role of Aunt Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach* here at Heritage. Favorite roles include Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act* (Toby's Dinner Theatre, Columbia MD), Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* (purple light theatre company, Baltimore MD), Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* (Phoenix Festival Theatre, Bel Air MD), and Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Miracle Players, Woodlawn MD). Amy would like to thank her incredible family, amazing friends, and Casey for all of their love and support. A final heartfelt thank you to the "Sweet Charity" cast and production team for working so hard and making this so much fun. Enjoy the show!

Mari Hill (Music Director and Reed 1) is excited to join Heritage Players as a Music Director for the first time! She is an aerospace engineer by day and musician by night. She is usually heard playing flute, clarinet, and saxophone in pit orchestras from Bowie to Reisterstown. Her past shows include *Secret Garden* (Memorial Players), *Titanic* (Heritage Players), *Shrek* (Charm City Players), *Sister Act* (Cockpit in

Court), and *H.M.S Pinafore* (2nd Star). Mari is also a member of the Joyous Voices professional Christmas caroling group. She would like to thank her husband for his love, support, and putting up with her crazy show schedules and also thank her family for continuously supporting her musical endeavors.

Charles Hirsch (Sound Designer) Charles has been doing sound for local area theatre productions including schools and churches for over 30 years in the Baltimore area. He also enjoys doing lighting and set construction when he has time. Some of the past places that he has worked at have been GAP, LST, Third Wall Productions, RTP, Jemicy School and of course Heritage Players! Charles would like to wish this talented cast lots of broken legs and hope that you thoroughly enjoy today's production of Sweet Charity!

Andrew Malone (Costume Designer) Andrew attended Shenandoah Conservatory where he studied costume design. His recent local credits include, *Evil Dead the Musical*. *Tick Tick BOOM*, *Legally Blonde the Musical* and *Evita* for which he won a Best Costume Design award from BroadwayWorld.com. Andrew would like to thank his co-designer Lanoree Blake for her hard work, dedication and support.

Al Ramer (Lighting Designer) is designing for the first time at Heritage Players. Usually seen at Spotlighters, favorites include *The Hairy Ape*, *Evita*, *Southern Baptist Sissies*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *Dog Sees God*. For the past seven years, he has worked as a lighting designer at River Hill High School, most recently designing *Pippin*. He has also designed at Fells Point Corner Theater and Red Branch Theatre. Al would like to thank Darlene.

Kristin Rigsby (Assistant Choreographer) is very excited to be working with Heritage Players for the first time. Kristin has been dancing for almost 20 years and choreographing for 15 years. She was the resident choreographer at Timonium dinner theater for three years and has also taken classes at the Broadway dance center in New York City. Past choreography credits include: *Grease*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Godspell*. Past roles include Frenchy in *Grease*, Sonia in *Godspell*, and a Stepsister in *Cinderella*. Kristin would like to thank Timoth for this opportunity. It was so exciting to learn some Fosse style dancing! "Dance like no one is watching" Enjoy the show!

