

Cast Bios

John Andrew (Amos Scudder) is ecstatic to appear once again at The Heritage Players. John was last seen as the Commissioner and a ball player in *Damn Yankees* (Pasadena Theatre Company). Credits include *Annie* (Rooster), *Scrooge the Musical* (Robert Cratchet), *Beauty and the Beast* (Monsieur D'Argue), *Little Mermaid* (Flotsam), *Seussical* (Genghis Khan Schmitz), *Secret Garden* (Fakir), Roger Davis (*RENT*), and *Meet Me in St. Louis* (John Truitt). Other credits include *Company* and *Barefoot in the Park*. A big thanks to Jim Gross and the rest of the cast and crew for allowing me to be part of such a great production. Enjoy the show!

Alice Bredland (Acrobat/1st Suffragette) has joined the circus with The Heritage Players in her debut stage appearance. She will be forever grateful to her cast mates and production team for being so welcoming, patient and supportive while showing her the (tight) ropes of theater. Alice would not be performing if it wasn't for Patrick, her partner in crime/life/parenting who made sure she went to the audition! Alice would like to thank her kids, Sam and Alex, and her bonus kids for singing and dancing along with her as well as her BFFs, Sterph and T\$, and her beautiful family - especially the ones in Canada.

Gigi Dawkins (Snake Charmer/ 2nd Suffragette) is excited to make her Heritage Players (HP) debut. Gigi loves Shakespeare and has performed as Antonio/Conrade in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the American Shakespeare Center. Being a classically trained soprano with a love for music and theatre, Gigi appeared as Wednesday in *The Addams Family* musical comedy and as Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*. Thanks to my family, friends, my wonderful voice teacher, Carol Westcott, and my cat, Sidney. An extra special thanks to Jim and everyone in the Barnum cast and crew for welcoming me into the HP family.

James Doggett (Ringmaster/James Bailey) is performing in his second show with The Heritage Players. Some of his previous roles include Ensemble in *James and the Giant Peach* (The Heritage Players), Ensemble in *Once on This Island* (Young Artists of America), and Junior in *Choir Boy*, written by Terrell Alvin McCraney (Community College of Baltimore County). He graduated from Baltimore School for the Arts in 2016.

Carly Dagilis (Lavinia/Julia) is so happy to be back on stage at The Heritage Players. Her favorite roles include JoJo in *Suessical* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD), Annie in *Annie, Jr.* and Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* (Beth Tfiloh, Baltimore MD), Peter Rabbit/Beatrix Potter in *Peter Rabbit* and Shulie in *Schoolhouse Rock* (Pumpkin Theatre, Baltimore MD), Small Alice in *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*, and Young Fiona in *Shrek* (Children's Playhouse of MD, Baltimore MD). She'll be seen next in Third Wall Productions' *Newsies*. Carly is currently a sophomore acting student at Baltimore School for the Arts.

Renata Hammond (Joice Heth) is delighted to be making her debut at The Heritage Players. When not playing an ailing nurse to the founding fathers, Renata can probably be found watching unhealthy amounts of Netflix, listening to true crime podcasts, or snuggling with babies. Her most recent favorite roles include Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Vagabonds, Purple Light), Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde* (Spotlighters), a Dynamite in *Hairspray* (Toby's and Purple light), Sarah's Friend in *Ragtime* (Memorial Players), and Addaperle in *The Wiz* (Spotlighters). Renata would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for their support and friendship. LOVE YOU GUYS!

Amy Haynes (Bearded Lady/Julius Goldschmidt) is thrilled to return to The Heritage Players stage after playing Aunt Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach* this summer, playing Kate McGowan in *Titanic in Concert* this February, and directing *Seussical* last summer. She currently serves as Secretary of Heritage's Board of Directors. Favorite roles include Cookie Cusack in *Rumors* (Colonial Players, Annapolis), Pepper Walker in *Crybaby, the Musical* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia), Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act* (Toby's Dinner Theatre, Columbia), Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* (purple light theatre company, Baltimore), Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* (Phoenix Festival Theatre, Bel Air), and Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Miracle Players, Woodlawn). Amy would like to thank her incredible family and amazing friends for all of their love and support. A special shout out to her husband, Casey, for all he

does to keep her smiling. A final heartfelt thank you to the production team and cast for helping to make this so much fun. Enjoy the show!

Megan Henderson (Happy Clown/Templeton) is excited to be back with The Heritage Players! Previously seen as a Bird Girl in *Seussical*. Professional credits include: Maurice in *Madagascar*, Gilda in *The Happy Elf*, Thea in *Spring Awakening*, Princess Léonide u/s in *Triumph of Love* (Red Branch Theatre Company). Other: *Little Women* (Jo March), *Edges* (Woman 1). Megan holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Seton Hill University. Thanks and love to the whole *Barnum* team!

Elizabeth Tane Kanner (Mrs. Stratton/Strongwoman) is thrilled to return to the stage with The Heritage Players, having last been on this stage as Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. This summer she made her directorial debut with *James and the Giant Peach* (The Heritage Players (HP), Catonsville MD). She currently serves as HP's Artistic Director. Some of her favorite roles include Madame de la Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* (Charm City Players, Baltimore MD), Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods* (Memorial Players, Baltimore and Reisterstown Theatre Project, Reisterstown MD), and Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins* (September Song, Westminster MD). Much love to the cast and crew, and especially her mom and husband for all their support! Hi peachlings!!

Joey B. Light (Sad Clown/Morrisey) is appearing in his second production with The Heritage Players. Joey has performed with operatic companies, masterworks chorales, and theatrical productions in the Western Panhandle of Maryland, as well as in both Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. He has been cast as Aldolfo Pirelli in three productions of *Sweeney Todd* and comedic roles such as Hysterium and Grumio (Robinwood Players, Hagerstown MD), as well as a member of the opera choruses of both the Hub Opera and Maryland Concert Opera Companies. Joey wishes to extend this gratitude to the production team of *Barnum*, the teachers who have shaped his talent as a vocalist, his family, and his best friend and husband, Dave.

Jamie Nash (Juggler/Amos Scudder U/S) is thrilled to be making his Heritage Players debut. He's appeared in musicals for the St. Mark's Markees, worked Murder Mystery Trains for Otter Productions and was once a Comedy-Juggler for the Baltimore Orioles. Away from the stage, Jamie is a screenwriter specializing in horror films (*V/H/S/2*, *The Night Watchmen*, *Exists*) and family films for Nickelodeon (*Santa Hunters* and *Tiny Christmas*). He also teaches film/screenwriting at MICA. He'd like to thank the cast and crew for being so welcoming and Amy, Luke and Buddy for letting him runaway and join the Circus.

Kyle Press (Wilton) is excited to perform in his first-ever stage production. Past credits include running the soundboard for *Sleeping Beauty* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD) and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD). I would like to thank Robin Trenner for introducing me to this wonderful theater company and for putting a good word in for me. I would also like to thank Jim Gross for taking a chance on someone that has never done theater before and also the cast, stage managers, and choreographer for being patient with me and showing me the ropes. I would like to thank my voice teacher, Janice Jackson, for giving me the tools necessary to sing this score and all of the music, theater, and acting classes I have taken in the past. Lastly, I would like to thank my parents for continually supporting me through everything that I do.

Kelly Rardon (Jenny Lind) is delighted return to The Heritage Players after appearing in *Sweet Charity* and *Titanic: In Concert* earlier this year. Favorite past roles include Mary Aldin in *Towards Zero* (Cockpit), Louise/Eve in *Ruthless!* (DCT), Gloria in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Cockpit), Ann Collier in *The 1940s Radio Hour* (Silhouette Stages), Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* (RTP), and Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* (PFT). A lifelong theater kid, Kelly is thrilled to escape the fast-paced world of marketing to lose herself in the fun and flash of the circus! Special thanks to Jim for sharing his vision and passion for this show!

Kamryn Polastre Scott (Mr. Stratton) was born in Virginia and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated from Goucher College with a degree in Psychology and a Music minor and earned his Masters in General Psychology from Caplan University. He has sung opera for 4 years and previously was part of the ensemble for *Sweet Charity* at The Heritage Players. His next upcoming performance in the spring will

be in *Sweeny Todd* at The Heritage Players. He's so blessed to be a part of the ensemble for Barnum and can't wait to be a part of other musical productions in the future!

Alexander Grillasca Velasco (General Tom Thumb) is thrilled to be back at another show at The Heritage Players! Alexander's favorite roles include Maurice in *Beauty and the Beast* (GBHS Theater Company, Glen Burnie, MD), East and Dave in *Almost, Maine* (GBHS Theater Company), and an ensemble member in *James in the Giant Peach* (The Heritage Players, Catonsville, MD). Alex would like to say thank you to Sami, Anna, and his family for everything they've done, as well as give Kathy Wenerick-Bell a shout-out for introducing him to this company.

Rachel Weir (Charity Barnum) is ecstatic to appear once again at The 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.

Matt Wetzel (PT Barnum) is thrilled to be premiering in his first Heritage Players productions! While Matt is no stranger to the local theatre scene, he's delighted to finally be performing on this stage. Previous roles include Igor in *Young Frankenstein* and Emmett Forrest in *Legally Blonde* (Silhouette Stages), Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Purple Light Theatre) and Man 2/Reggie in *First Date* (Spotlighters Theatre). It's actually been several months since Matt last performed on stage, and he's happy to break that streak! Matt would like to thank the entire cast and production staff who have all been absolutely wonderful throughout this process. He would also like to thank his fiancée Lindsey for everything she does. Seriously, she's amazing. Like... wow. In fact, if you can, go check out her latest performance as Daisy Hilton in another show about freaks and circus folks, *Side Show*, at Dundalk Community Theatre this November. He is so lucky to have her as his other half (even if she is currently stuck to someone else's hip.)

Chip Willett (Chester Lyman) is excited to do his first show with The Heritage Players. He has been auditioning for years and somehow this one all worked out. I love my cast mates and want to thank Jim for giving me the opportunity to get my foot in door. In the daytime, Chip can be found cooking at Google. Sit back and enjoy the show.

Wiggly Boi (Snake) aspires to be the first reptile to win a Tony Award. Thanks to Jim for casting me in my Heritage Players debut! Note: Please be considerate and watch where you walk tonight. I'm under contract for multiple performances and don't want to get squished. Thank you!

Production Team Bios

Kelly Alt (Choreographer) graduated from East Carolina University with a Dance Performance degree in 2010. Since graduating, she has been performing and choreographing for the Colleeitive, a Baltimore-based dance company. She has also been teaching dance at The Chatsworth School for the past 5 years. Kelly choreographed *Seussical: the Musical* last season for The Heritage Players and hopes everyone will want to join the circus after seeing *Barnum*.

Amy Bell (Assistant Costumer) is really excited to have been able to help costume everyone in The Heritage Players' production of *Barnum*. Amy's previous costuming credits include assisting on *Big Fish* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Spotlighters Theatre, Baltimore, MD). When not working on or off stage in theater, Amy can be found creating Halloween costumes and cosplay. She would like to thank the whole production team for being so great to work with.

Stuart Dawkins (Light Board Operator) is making his backstage debut with The Heritage Players. His training in technical production and theatre management includes work with the Arena Stage in Washington, DC, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, WQED Public TV, several summers with Totempole

Playhouse, Baltimore Opera, American Shakespeare Center, and September Song to name a few. He has also worked in many facilities in the mid-Atlantic region doing lighting and curtain installations, renovations, and creating performance spaces and studios.

Jim Gross (Director) is thrilled to be making his directorial debut with this wonderful show. Before trying his hand at directing you may have seen him as Galahad et al. in *Spamalot* and Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD), Harold Hill in *The Music Man* and Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins* (September Song, Westminster MD), Horton the Elephant in *Seussical* and Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (Heritage Players, Catonsville MD) and Actor 4 in *Das Barbecü* and The Waiter in *First Date* (The Audrey Herman Spotlighters Theater, Baltimore MD). Jim is currently the Vice President of Heritage Players and is a mild mannered Quality Manager by day. Much love to His amazing and understanding family for all of their support!

Kendra Harris (Lighting Designer) has been in the business for over 20 years. Was a resident designer for Las Vegas Little Theatre. Some favorite productions include *Avenue Q*, *Fargot North*, *Come back to the five and dime*, *Jimmy Dean*. Also has done freelance DCMS productions in LA for *Little Shop of Horrors*. Currently working for Rhino DC as a stage hand, spot op, stage manager and electrician. Also working for the Onley Theatre as an electrician. She attended PCPA for technical theatre. She is pleased to thank Heritage for letting her be a part of their team. Excited for her first design in Maryland.

Lynn Kellner (Costumer) is so excited to be working on a Heritage Players production for the first time. Previous costuming roles include costume design and/or development for *Les Mis* (2017) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2016) (Arundel High School, Odenton, MD), seamstress at Toby's Dinner Theatre (2016-2017), costume design and/or development *Little Mermaid*, *Music Man* and *Shrek* (2014-2016) (Charm City Players, Baltimore, MD) and *Into the Looking Glass* and *High School Musical* (2014-2015, Laurel Mill Playhouse, Laurel MD). I would especially like to thank Jim Gross for making this an amazing experience and the cast for making this a fantastic show! I'd also like to thank God for giving me the love and ability to do costumes and my family for the incredible show of support you have given me during all these years.

Katy Kennedy (Make-Up Designer) is a freelance make-up artist and small business owner of Shadow Hues, including the use of custom-made eyeshadows. With over 15 years of experience in theatrical, beauty, Special FX, and editorial make up, Katy will create any make-up look needed. Some of Katy's theatrical make-up work includes: AACC's Moonlight Troopers: *Peter Pan* (2002), *A Raisin' in the Sun* (2003), *42nd Street* (2003); How Do You Like Me Now Productions: *Heathers the Musical* (2017); and The Heritage Players, Inc.: *Barnum the Circus Musical* (2018). Thank you to my family and friends for the amazing support and the cast and crew of *Barnum* for bringing out the most creative side of me.

Kathy McCrory (Co- Stage Manager) is pleased to be back at her home theatre. Kathy has been stage managing in the Baltimore area for 20years or more. There are too many shows to count, but a couple of the recent ones are *Heathers*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, and *Titanic the Concert Version*, to name a few. It has been a pleasure working for a wonderful and talented cast and crew. She wants to thank her husband for putting up with her crazy hours and meals. To the cast, Kathy would like to say the "Circus must go on!!" Have fun out there everyone!!

Megan Millane (Co-Stage Manager) is excited to be working backstage once again here at The Heritage Players. She enjoys being stage manager, running crew, light board operator, and follow spot operator at several theaters around the Baltimore area, including The Heritage Players (Catonsville), Dundalk Community Theatre (CCBC Dundalk, Board Member), Spotlighters Theatre (Baltimore), Vagabond Players (Fells Point), and Silhouette Stages (Columbia). Up next, you will find her up in the catwalks running follow spot for DCT's fall musical, *Side Show*. Much love and thanks to Jim (nice job, dude!), Kathy, and this awesome and talented cast and crew!

Megan Mostow (Properties) is excited to take on the production role of Props Mistress for The Heritage Players' (HP) production of *Barnum!* Previous HP credits include Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical the Musical*, Helene in *Sweet Charity*, and Spider in *James and the Giant Peach*. Megan is currently on

Heritage's Board of Directors as their Historian. She would like to wish many broken legs to the phenomenal cast, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Mandee Ferrier Roberts (Music Director) is a pianist, music director, and composer who has worked with a variety of theatres and schools in the greater Baltimore area over the past 15 years. Recent credits include *Godspell* (Modell Lyric Opera House summer musical theatre camp), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Spotlighters), *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Cohesion Theatre Company), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Baltimore School for the Arts), *The Cradle Will Rock* (Iron Crow Theatre), and *[title of show]* (Fells Point Corner Theatre). Mandee has been the company music director and composer for eight seasons with Pumpkin Theatre, and holds a Master's degree in Arts Management from American University. She resides in Catonsville with her husband and six year old son, Sammy.

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