

Cast Biographies

Atticus Cooper Boidy (Ensemble) is so excited to be back with Heritage Players. He recently appeared as Jack in Heritage's fall production of *Into the Woods*. Atticus found his passion for performing at a very young age and has continued to perform for the love of it. Aside from acting, Atticus' main work is directing, stage management, and lighting design. He is the resident director at Severna Park Middle School and has directed with Severna Park Elementary School, Indian Creek, Children's Theater of Annapolis, The Colonial Players, and 2nd Star Productions. He is currently preparing to direct *Rumors* with Colonial Players opening September 7th. Atticus' recent stage management credits include Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre's *The Full Monty* and *The Wedding Singer*, Colonial Players' *The City of Conversation*, and Compass Rose Theater's *A Raisin In The Sun*. A theater student at Anne Arundel Community College, he additionally stage managed The Theatre at AACCC's *In Love and Warcraft*. He is currently stage managing *9 to 5* with Annapolis Summer Garden Theater opening August 2nd.

Mia Coulbourne (Ensemble) is excited to be continuing her journey with Heritage and to be a part of this production. This is Mia's thirteenth 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.

Stephen M. Deininger (Ladahlord) Stephen is a well known actor, pianist, and director in Baltimore. At Vagabond Players he has appeared as Tupolski in *The Pillowman*, and worked on *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Avenue Q*, and *Our Town*. He has performed with the Heritage Players where he has directed *Urinetown*, *The Man From Earth*, produced and directed one of the plays in *All in the Timing*, music directed *Anything Goes*, and also played Lenny in *Rumors*, Clifford Anderson in *Deathtrap*, Jamie in *The Last Five Years*, Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, and Lt. Col. Nathan Jessep in *A Few Good Men*. At Laurel Mill Playhouse he played Tateh in *Ragtime*, a role for which he won a W.A.T.C.H. award, Burrs in *The Wild Party*, Robert in *Company*, Benny in *Rent*, Donny in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and directed and played Gaston in *Picasso at the Lapine Agile*. He has appeared in many productions, including such roles as Judas in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Vincent Van Gogh in *Inventing Van Gogh*, John Adams in *1776*, Eddie in *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, Jesus in *Godspell*.

James Doggett (Matron Nurse/Ensemble) is very excited and grateful to be a part of this production of *James and the Giant Peach*. This is his first production with Heritage Players and hopes to work with them again soon. He attended the Baltimore School for the Arts for acting and graduated in 2016. He is currently enrolled at CCBC. Some of his other rolls are Junior from *Choir Boy* (CCBC), Keith from *A Father's Love* (Arena Players), Filch from *Beggars Opera* (Baltimore School for the Arts), Justice from The U.K. world premiere of *Prospect High: Brooklyn* (Tristan Bates Theatre, England). He would like to thank everyone in the production for never letting there be a dull moment both on and off stage.

Ashley Gerhardt (Spiker) is happy to be back at Heritage after last being seen as Nickie in *Sweet Charity*. Ashley has been performing in professional and community theatre for 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. All her love goes to her husband. I love you Mr. Lobster!! "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it!"

Brandon Goldman (James) feels remark-u-lous-ly fan-tas-ma-rific to be performing in his second show with Heritage Players. Brandon is 12 years old and will be a 7th grader at Ellicott Mills Middle School in the Fall. He was last seen in Heritage Players' 2016 production of *Seussical* as JoJo, and performed in *Beauty & The Beast* (Beast) and *Aladdin* (Aladdin) at Drama Learning Center, and in *The Wizard of Oz* (Munchkin) at Reservoir High School. Brandon takes dance classes in hip hop and ballet at Dance Connections and is a member of the Howard County Honors Choir. Brandon would like to thank his cast-mates, the director Liz for this opportunity, and the phenomenal music directors Emily and Chris for teaching the wonderful music. Brandon also wishes to thank his friends, his Mom, his Dad (Grasshopper), and his younger sister, Mallory.

Jeremy Goldman (Grasshopper) is jumping onto the stage in his first show with Heritage Players! Jeremy is a local guy, graduating from Centennial High School (1996), Univ. of Maryland (2000, B.A. in Theater), and Univ. of Baltimore School of Law (2009). He has been performing locally his entire life, most recently at Silhouette Stages in Columbia, MD as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein*, as Dan in *Next To Normal*, as Patsy in *Spamalot*, and as the King in *Big River*. Other roles include: Alexander in *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (Kennedy Center National Tour), Matt in *The Fantasticks* (Round House Theater), Corny Collins in *Hairspray* (purple light theater company), Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (UMD), Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street* (CHS). Jeremy currently works as an attorney and serves as the President of Silhouette Stages, Inc. He wishes to thank his family and friends; his talented cast-mates; and the production team and technical crew for their hard work. Jeremy lives in Ellicott City with his shockingly supportive and extraordinarily gorgeous wife, Allison, and their two kids, Mallory (9) and Brandon (12)... who is playing James!

Rebecca Hanauer (Ladybug) is thrilled to make her debut at Heritage Players! She recently moved to Maryland from Rolla, Missouri where she studied/performed/worked/played at Missouri S&T and Ozark Actors Theatre. Previous credits include Ensemble in *Lucky Stiff* (Silhouette Stages, Columbia MD), Diana in *Next to Normal* and Rizzo in *Grease* (Missouri S&T, Rolla MO), and many more with S&T and OAT. In addition to acting, she has done a variety of jobs behind the scenes, including hair/wig/makeup design, set design, set construction and wardrobe. When she's outside the theatre, she works as an electrical engineer in Columbia. "I can't express enough love and gratitude to this cast and crew for this incredible journey. All my love to my family, friends, and especially to Chris."

Amy E. Haynes (Sponge) is thrilled to return to the Heritage Players stage after 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 Pepper Walker in *Crybaby the Musical* (Silhouette Stages), Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act* (Toby's Dinner Theatre), Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* (purple light theatre company), Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* (Phoenix Festival Theatre), and Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Miracle Players). Amy would like to thank her incredible family and amazing friends for all of their love and support. A special shout out to Casey for all he does to keep her smiling. A final heartfelt thank you to the production team and cast for helping to make "being bad" so much fun. Enjoy the show!

Elizabeth Tane Kanner (Director) has worked every production role offered in community theater (except for lighting which she happily leaves to experts like TJ) and is thrilled to be making her directorial debut with *James and the Giant Peach* at her "home" theater. She has been obsessed with this show since seeing it at the Seattle Children's Theatre in 2013. Her recent onstage roles include Madame de la

Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* (Charm City Players), Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods* (Memorial Players and Reisterstown Theatre Project), and Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins* (September Song). Much love to the cast and crew, and especially her mom and husband for all their help and support!

Kiersten King (Ensemble) is excited to be in her first production with the Heritage Players. When not busy with theatre, she enjoys dancing, baking sweet treats, and spending time with friends. She would like to thank Liz for giving her this fabulous opportunity, Ms. Lori for believing in her and encouraging her, the cast and crew for their encouragement, and her friends and family for their love and support.

TJ Lukacsina (Lighting Designer) is happy to shed some light on the stage for *James and the Giant Peach*. Previous lighting design includes *Into the Woods*, *Seussical*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Heritage Players; *Sweeney Todd*, *Harvey*, *High School Musical*, *Peter Pan Jr*, and *White Christmas* at Laurel Mill Playhouse. Directing credits include *Big Fish*, *Legally Blonde* at Silhouette Stages; *Into the Woods*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Heritage Players; *White Christmas*, *Sweeney Todd* (WATCH nomination for best musical/direction) at Laurel Mill Playhouse. He has also conducted the past 11 musicals at Hammond High School. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Megan Millane (Co-Stage Manager) is excited to be working backstage once again here at Heritage Players. She enjoys being stage manager, running crew, light/sound board operator, and follow spot operator at several theaters around the Baltimore area, including Dundalk Community Theatre (CCBC Dundalk, Board Member), Spotlighters Theatre (Baltimore), Vagabond Players (Fells Point), and Silhouette Stages (Columbia). Up next, you will find her behind the light board at Cockpit in Court's (CCBC Essex) summer production of *The Little Mermaid* and stage managing Heritage's fall musical, *Barnum*. Thanks to Liz, Heidi, and this awesome and talented cast and crew!

Megan Mostow (Spider) is excited to be back with the Heritage Players for another season. She was most recently seen as Helene in their production of *Sweet Charity*. Previous Roles include Susan in *Company* (Just off Broadway), Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical the Musical* (Heritage Players), and Holly in *The Wedding Singer* (Damascus Theatre Company). She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support, especially her fiancé, Stephen, for understanding her "I can't I have rehearsal" lifestyle.

Sami Peterson (Ensemble) is excited to make her debut with the Heritage Players. Her favorite roles include Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*. She is currently employed as the Director of the Glen Burnie High School Theatre Company. She'd like to thank Alex for dragging her into this, and Anna for putting up with the soundtrack.

John "Gary" Pullen (Centipede) is delighted to be performing his second role with the Heritage Players. Gary's favorite roles include the Major-General in *Pirates of Penzance* and Fogg in *Sweeney Todd* (Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA), Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Cowardly Lion in *the Wizard of Oz*, and Randle McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Augusta Players, Augusta, GA), Benny Southstreet in *Guys and Dolls* and Hysterium in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Ft Gordon Dinner Theater, Augusta, GA) and, most recently as Captain E.J. Smith in *Titanic the Musical* (Heritage Players, Catonsville, MD). Gary's directing credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Moon*

Over Buffalo, and *The Hostage*. Gary sends love and appreciation to his muses and inspirations; Jewel, his wife, and daughter Keira.

Matt Scheer (Earthworm) is thrilled to return to Heritage Players for his fourth show with the group. Previous Heritage roles include Lt. Jack Ross in *A Few Good Men*, Ken Gorman in *Rumors*, and Mitch Mahoney in *Spelling Bee*. Other credits include Miles Gloriosus and Hysterium in *Forum*, Mickey in *Blood Brothers*, and Franz Liebkind in *The Producers* (Silhouette Stages) and Javert in *Les Miserables* (Howard County Summer Theatre). Matt would like to thank the production staff, crew, and his cast mates for making this such a fantastic experience. Special thanks to Delia for encouraging this behavior.

Heidi L. Vause (Stage Manager) is excited to work on another show at Heritage Players. While she can usually be found working behind the scenes or helping with the box office, she occasionally appears on stage (most recently as Officer Pudney in Heritage Players' 2015 production of *Rumors*). Thanks to the cast & crew for being a blast to work with!! She sends a special shout out to her favorite partner-in-crime, Jeff!

Alexander Elias Grillasca Velasco (Ensemble) is enthused to have his community theatre debut at the Heritage Players. His favorite roles include Maurice in *Beauty and The Beast* and East and Dave in *Almost, Maine* (GBHS). He'd like to thank Kathy Wenerick-Bell for introducing him to this company. He'd also like to thank Sami for going along with him.

Malarie Zeeks (Choreographer) is a long time actress in the community, loving every aspect of the process of theatre; especially the people she gets to meet. Favorite roles include Betty Haynes in *White Christmas*, Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, and Marge in *Bridges of Madison County*. She is beyond blessed to be the choreographer of this fantastic show with such a talented cast and crew. Thank you all for your hard work and time that you have put into this production! You have brought the peach to life! Another special shout out to her loving grandparents and husband Zak for the insane rehearsal schedule that has been her life the past few months. You are patient, kind, and appreciated!