

MARS  HILL  
UNIVERSITY 1856

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

**PRESENTS**

# LITTLE SHOP OF



# HORRORS

Book & Lyrics by  
**HOWARD ASHMAN**

Music by  
**ALAN MENKEN**

Directed by  
**DOMINIC M. AQUILINO**

**April 21 – 24, 2021**

PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH MUSICAL THEATRE INTERNATIONAL.

# ACT I

"Little Shop of Horrors" – Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, Taffeta

"Skid Row (Downtown)" – Company

"Da-Doo" – Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, Taffeta

"Grow for Me" – Seymour

"Ya Never Know" – Mushnik, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette,  
Taffeta, Seymour

"Somewhere That's Green" – Audrey

"Closed for Renovation" – Seymour, Audrey, Mushnik

"Dentist!" – Orin, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, Taffeta

"Mushnik and Son" – Mushnik, Seymour

"Sudden Changes" – Seymour

"Feed Me (Git It)" – Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, Taffeta  
Audrey II, Seymour

"Now (It's Just the Gas)" – Orin, Seymour

Coda – Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, Taffeta, Audrey II

# ACT II

"Call Back in the Morning" – Seymour, Audrey

"Suddenly, Seymour" – Seymour, Audrey, Chiffon, Crystal,  
Ronette, Taffeta

"Suppertime" – Audrey II, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, Taffeta

"The Meek Shall Inherit" – Company

"Sominex/Suppertime" (reprise) – Audrey, Audrey II

"Somewhere That's Green" (reprise) – Audrey

"Finale Ultimo ("Don't Feed the Plants") – Company

# THE CAST

<b>The Voice from Above</b> .....	Kiera Whittemore
<b>Seymour Krelborn</b> .....	Paul Penderman
<b>Audrey</b> .....	Emma-Leigh Brookshire
<b>Audrey II/The Plant</b> .....	Connor Evans
<b>Mr. Mushnik</b> .....	Dillon Giles**
<b>Orin Scrivello "The Dentist"</b> .....	Joshua Hager
<b>Crystal</b> .....	Sarah Wheeler
<b>Ronette</b> .....	Jamie Garcia
<b>Chiffon</b> .....	Alexis Stephens
<b>Taffeta</b> .....	Tiffanie Boone**
<b>Berstein</b> .....	Ethan Weber
<b>Mrs. Luce</b> .....	Dalton Davidson
<b>Skip Snip</b> .....	Righteous Luster
<b>Uptown and Downtown Guys</b> .....	Kevin May
<b>Mr. Martin</b> .....	Steven Capers
<b>Ensemble/Customers/Skid Row:</b> Ethan Weber, Righteous Luster, Kevin May, Steven Capers, Connor Evans, Alondra Barres-Hernandez, Regan Sellers, Jordyn Winberry	
<b>Ensemble Audrey II Plant-Dancers:</b> Alondra Barres-Hernandez, Regan Sellers, Jordyn Winberry, Dalton Davidson, Righteous Luster, Kevin May, Ethan Weber	

\*\* Professional Guest Performers

# THE CREW

Director.....	Dominic Michael Aquilino
Assistant Director.....	Brianna Brunner
Musical Director.....	Chelsea Cribbs
Choreographer.....	Amanda Hoyte
Costume Designer.....	Anne P. Knight
Technical Direction and Set Design.....	Richard Seagle
Assistant Technical Director.....	Andrew C. Zebroski
Lighting and Sound Director.....	Andrew C. Zebroski
Stage Manager.....	Katelyn Crutcher
Production Manager.....	Sue Fair
Playbill Designer.....	Kiera Whittemore
Vocal Captain.....	Sarah Wheeler
Dance Captain.....	Angie Borbon



**Dominic Michael Aquilino and his Audrey II creation.**

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

From a very early age I was captivated with live theater and movie musicals. The idea of complex storytelling appealed to me greatly as an imaginative, introspective and introverted youth. Theater and music helped me find myself and my unique voice and message in the world. I was particularly fascinated with the darker characters immediately and transformed my bedroom and my world into a safe lair of creativity- sparked significantly by the story and lead character in *The Phantom of the Opera*, a role I played in many places, for many years and still continue to explore. This journey led me deeper down the “rabbit hole” into C.S.Lewis, Victor Hugo, Edgar Allen Poe, Bram Stoker and Grimm’s Fairy Tales. These stories furthered my curiosity into a double minor or

Literature and Philosophy. As a history buff and a born and bred New Yorker who lived in New York City for over 13 years, I have also always been drawn to anything steeped in New England history. As an actor, I have been thrilled to have made a national career in theater and opera, exploring darker and more mis-understood characters and the intricacies of the human condition.

Enter *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Of course my first obsession with this musical was the 1986 movie with Rick Moranis, Ellen Green and Steve Martin- a fun and true rendition in it’s own right but tied up with a bow in a happy Hollywood ending. A singing plant puppet from outer space? Count me in! As a small homage to one of my idols- Jim Henson and Frank Oz, I wanted

to “try my hand” at bringing Audrey II’s puppets to life and then go one step further as we explored the art of theatrical movement as Audrey II grows and matures.

The Original Broadway version- the version you will see here today- speaks much deeper to our choices and humanity. The story, more like a Grimm fable, carries the message that we can be undone by our circumstances if we let them reign. Spoiler Alert: it does not end so happily.

Our message and what I hope you will take away from my “vision” is that *Human Ambition* is a monster planted in a world that is ripe for the picking- that it eats even the purest of us whole if we feed it. As human beings in our modern society we are so often grasping for the “unattainable”...and sometimes the thing we are truly grasping for is overlooked as it is covered with the distracting vines of putting our energies into the exact wrong things. Do we really need four 75” Plasma TVs or 7 cars...or millions of dollars to live a happy and fulfilled existence? Do we really need to feed these desires? Or do we all just truly long for a tv dinner *Somewhere that’s Green* with the ones we love? Maybe we have what we need before us, if we just nurture what is pure and honest? These questions could not be more relevant today. As we negotiate

our lives after this Global Pandemic the world and our lives will be changed forever and maybe it is Mother Nature’s way of guiding us back to what is pure and honest.

At the very least, Little Shop’s message gets us thinking...

There are so many beautiful and simply poignant songs in this show, written by Disney’s favorite composer Alan Menken and lyricist Howard Ashman in their earlier days, and the dialogue is funny and sweet while still remaining sincere.

Set in 1950 Manhattan’s Lower East side I also find, as many of us do, a nod to our American immigrant heritage and the post war economic struggle and unbalanced class system that developed in the Skid Rows of our large cities at the time. The strain of those conditions also have a large part in WHY our characters make the dramatic choices they do.

I hope today you will laugh, cry and ponder with me as we watch this truly heartfelt and timeless story of the human condition.

And remember...”Don’t Feed the Plants!” Welcome back to LIVE Theater!  
Cheers!

Domini M. Aquilino  
Your Humble Director



# WHO'S WHO



Angie Borbon is a Junior Theatre Arts major with a concentration in Dance, born in Costa Rica and a resident of South Carolina. She has showcased her skills in many productions both in the form of dance and acting. You may have seen her work in *Miracle in Bedford Falls*, *Freaky Friday*, and *Dearly Departed*, to name just a few. Angie's ability to act has been recognized by the Palmetto Dramatic Association with the Excellence in a One Act award. Angie plans to graduate in 2022 and to pursue acting and dancing professionally.



Emma-Leigh Brookshire was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. She is a freshman this year at Mars Hill University and is a musical theatre major. You may have seen her in productions at Asheville Community Theater such as *The Fantasticks* and *Footloose*. She intends to make a career out of musical theater after getting her degree.



Alondra Barrera-Hernandez is a freshman majoring in Music Ed. at Mars Hill University and I'm from Rutherfordton, NC and I've always grown up with music around me. I started out with being an instrumentalist and as time went on I joined a local choir and Roco's theater program and found enjoyment in not only playing my instruments, but also being on stage acting and singing!



Bri Brunner is a Senior at Mars Hill University. Bri has dabbled in all fields of theatre. You might have seen her in *Miracle in Bedford Falls* as Tilly, in *Bright Star* as an ensemble member, or *Freaky Friday* as Mrs. Time. Her technical work has been extensive including, Assistant directing *Clybourne Park*, Stage management *Clybourne Park*, *Dearly Departed*, Assistant SM SART season 2019, *Freaky Friday*, *Miracle in Bedford Falls*, Props Master *Miracle in Bedford Falls*, *Freaky Friday*, SART season 2019, *Dearly Departed*, and scriptwriting *My Good Friend, Nina*.



Steven Taurean Khalil Capers Jr is a Charlotte, North Carolina native. From a young age he's always been in love with performing, in and out of school. Steven-Khalil has participated in many performances within Charlotte, NC and even overseas. Some of his credits include Opera Carolina Academy, Teen Health Connection's "Big picture" for 2 consecutive years, performing at the Bella Notte ball in 2019 and performing the national anthem for local football and baseball games. He is also a part of a well-known nonprofit organization called Inspire The Fire Inc. where he is the standing young apprentice and a member of the Organizations' touring ensemble and planning team. Within that organization he has performed at the 35th annual MLK Breakfast hosted by YMCA, multiple appearances on Fox 46 News, and performed during halftime at the Spectrum Center in 2019. He recently graduated from Northwest School of the Arts where he was the president of the choral department and a student apprentice educator for the schools highly acclaimed men's ensemble in 2020. He is currently a freshman at Mars Hill University hoping to pursue a career in music and theater education and performance.



Katie Crutcher is a Sophomore here at Mars Hill University. She is majoring in theatre arts with a concentration in technology/design and minoring in mathematics. Katie began doing theatre when she was in middle school but didn't start learning the technical side of it until after she started attending MHU and has been excited for new opportunities to expand her knowledge in this field. This is Katie's first-time stage managing and is thankful for the support she has received from the cast and crew throughout the process that led to this production.



Dalton Davidson is in his second year at Mars Hill University. He is a double major in Business Administration (Finance & Economics) and in Theater (Acting). He also has two minors in Spanish and in Dance and is am a part of the Mars Hill Men's Swim team. Dalton is from a small town in Kansas. He loved being a part of musicals during high school and was a part of last year's production "Side by Side" at Mars Hill.



Connor Evans is a Senior Musical Theater major at Mars Hill University, planning to graduate a year early in May 2021. He enjoys singing, acting and tap dancing. You may have seen him in *Clybourne Park* as Jim, Tom, and Kenneth. You also may have heard his voice on the SART answering machine or saw him star as Joseph in the SART production of *Miracle in Bedford Falls*. After graduation he plans to attend graduate school in the British Isles while working in music theater professionally.





Ezra Frazier is a Freshmen Theatre Arts major at Mars Hill University. Ezra is a native of South Carolina and has experience in performance. They were recently in the musical production of *Little Mermaid Junior*. Ezra will graduate in 2024 and plans to work professionally in theater after graduating.



Blake Freeman is a junior Integrated health sciences major with a focus in occupational therapy and minoring in Theatre arts, resides in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This is his first year with the Theatre arts program and his first time in a production. He plans on graduating in 2022 and pursuing a career in the health field.



Jamie Garcia is a Freshman Musical Theatre major at Mars Hill University. She is from Alamance County North Carolina. Jamie went to a performing art's high school and has grown loving the theatre arts. Her greatest passion is for music and she has performed in community shows such as *Once On This Island*, *Annie* and *Hairspray*. Through her choir group she has been able to do performances for graduations, community services and even she has sung for the final number at a Foreigner concert, *I Wanna Know What Love Is*.



Dillon Giles (he/him) is a locally based professional actor and door builder based in Asheville. You may recognize me from other theaters in the area including ACT, HART, SART, and The Magnetic Theater. Favorite roles are too many but some notable ones are Tony in *West Side Story*, Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, El Gallo in *The Fantastiks*, Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*, Gary Lejeune in *Noises Off!*, and many more!



Faith Giles is currently a Freshman at Mars Hill University double majoring in Theatre Arts and English. Before coming to Mars Hill University, Faith attended Watauga High School where she was heavily involved in the theatre program.

There, you may have seen her in the musicals *Guys and Dolls*, *Cinderella*, or *Newsies*. She was also a part of the Playmaker Ensemble that won the North Carolina Theatre Conference in the 2019-2020 school year with the play *Ernest and the Pale Moon*. In the future, Faith hopes to continue to grow in her acting ability at Mars Hill and beyond.



James Greene is originally from Utah and a Freshmen Musical Theatre major at Mars Hill University. He has appeared in multiple performances at his high school, Saint Stephens High School which includes *Our Town* and *Small Town Secrets*, an original play., James plans to be a Voice Actor after he graduates.



Joshua Hager is a Junior, Music Education major with a Choral and Vocal focus, born in Statesville, North Carolina. He has actively been involved within the Mars Hill University Choir, Chamber Choir, and the Central United Methodist choir in Asheville. You may have seen

him in *A Christmas Carole*. Joshua plans to graduate in 2022 and attend graduate school for vocal performance.



Jaime Lopez is a Sophomore at Mars Hill University majoring in Theater with a concentration in Technical Theatre. Jaime worked in construction for a few years before deciding to go to school and major in Theatre.



Righteous Luster is a Sophomore Theatre Arts major and a native of South Carolina. He has participated in many plays including *21 Chump Street* as the Narrator, *Conform!* As Milton, *A Company of Players* as Thomas and *Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* as Aggie Boy/Ensemble.

Upon graduation, Righteous plans to pursue a career in professional acting.



Kevin May is a native of Gastonia, North Carolina and is a Junior at Mars Hill University. He is majoring in Theatre Arts. Kevin has been a part of many shows at Mars Hill such as *All in the Timing*, *Freaky Friday*, *Side by Side* and even made his professional debut with SART

in *The Miracle at Bedford Falls*. Kevin plans to continue his education in theatre after he graduates from Mars Hill University in May of 2022.



Gracelynn Hope McCurry is a Senior Theater Arts major, born and raised in Western North Carolina. Her early productions consist of religious nativity scenes and school plays and showcases. During her time at Mars Hill she was

in the production of *Jack Tales*. Gracelynn hopes to further her education by getting a master's degree and become a Drama Therapist or teacher.



Paul Penderman is a Musical Theatre major at Mars Hill University and is from Greenville, South Carolina. He is also the president of the University Theatre Honor Society, Alpha Psi Omega and a dancer for the MHU dance team.

You may have seen him in *"Freaky Friday the Musical"* as Adam, *"Dearly Departed"* as Ray Bud, and Roy in SARTS *"The Odd Couple"*. He plans on pursuing dance and theatre further after college and hopes to travel.



Warren Sain is a Senior at Mars Hill University and currently resides in Orlando, Florida. He is a performer for The Walt Disney Company.

Throughout his career he has appeared in theatrical productions such as: *Man of La*

*Mancha* (Sancho Panza), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert

Peterson), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Hannah) and *Private Lives*

(Cybil/Cy) to name a few. Sain has toured with Feld

Entertainments-'Disney LIVE! *Three Classic Fairytales* for their

South Asian/Mexico/European tour. He has also been

employed by CMT, MTV, Paramount Parks, Cedar Fair

Entertainment, NYC Fashion Week, The CW, and VH1.

Although he loves to perform, Sain has choreographed,

costume designed, stage managed and directed shows for

professional/community theatre and theme parks. He plans to

teach after graduation!



Regan Sellers is a Freshman Music Education major with a concentration in voice. She is from Kings Mountain, North Carolina. She will be

playing as an ensemble member. She has been in

shows such as *You're a Good Man, Charlie*

*Brown* and *Shrek: the Musical*. She is undecided

with what she wants to do after she graduates in 2024 but

wants to continue on stage!



Alexis Stephens is a Freshman at Mars Hill University and a native of Western North

Carolina, she has appeared in 2 theatre

productions. She was in her high school

production of *You Can't Beat the House* and was

in CoMMA's production of *Camelot*. Having a

strong choir background, she has been in multiple honor

chorus' and festivals. Alexis studies musical theatre at Mars

Hill University, graduating in 2024. After graduation, Alexis

plans to become a professional Musical Theatre actress.



Ethan Weber is a Sophomore at Mars Hill University and is from Greenville, South Carolina. You may have seen him in productions such as *Side by Side*, *Clybourne Park*, or *Best little Whorehouse in Texas*. Ethan plans to act professional after he graduates in 2023.



Sarah Wheeler is a Freshmen at Mars Hill University majoring in Musical Theatre. She has a love for telling stories through music which has helped her to find a love for theatre. She has starred in several musicals such as *Beauty and The Beast*, *Hairspray*, *13: The Musical*, and more recently *Shrek The Musical*. Sarah is excited for her journey in finding herself at Mars Hill. She will be in the graduating class of 2024 and plans on doing musical theatre professionally in the foreseeable future.



Kiera Whittemore is currently a Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Major at Mars Hill University. Some of her favorite roles where Emma Borden in *Lizzie Borden Took an Axe*, Mrs. Bucket in *Willy Wonka*, and The Magic Mirror in *Snow White*.

Her past technical experiences include Assistant Stage Manager in MHU's production of *Clybourne Park*, as well as Stage Manager of multiple summer camps at Davidson Community Players.

Seth Wynn is a Freshman Musical Theatre major at Mars Hill University. He was born and raised in Graham, North Carolina and started his theatre career at Graham High School. He has performed in roles such as Danny Zuko, The Mad Hatter, and Armand. He hopes to expand his repertoire in the coming years and plans on going into a career in teaching high school theatre after graduating from Mars Hill University.

# FACULTY & STAFF



**Sue Fair**

**Department of Theatre Arts**

**Chair**

**Assistant Professor**

She was born in Asheville, North Carolina and was a graduate of West Henderson High School, Florida A & M University and Florida State University, from where she holds a graduate degree in Theatre Education. She also served her country in the Army Reserves for eight years as an Intelligence Officer, specifically prisoner of war intelligence. Sue has worked professionally at Gardner-Webb University as the Theatre Arts Department Interim Department Chair, Instructor, Designer and Managing Director, from where she proudly received the faculty of the year award in 2015. Sue has also worked for Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Flat Rock Playhouse, Tallahassee Community College, South Georgia Performing Arts, Nickelodeon, and Young Actor's Theatre. Sue has been involved in theatre for over 30 years with more than 50 performances under her belt and has been teaching professionally for over 20 years. Her true love is theatre education and inspiring people of all ages with the wonders of live theatre.



**Dominic Aquilino**

**Department of Theatre Arts**

**Instructor of Voice**

Dominic Michael Aquilino Dominic hails from NY and has performed professionally at such renowned companies as The Santa Fe Opera, Central City Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Orlando Opera, The Cleveland Playhouse, Dayton Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Lake George Opera Festival, Di Capo Opera, Manhattan Opera Theatre and Off-Broadway alike, throughout the New York Region and



everywhere across the United States. Nationally he has toured as The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Leading roles in *La Boheme*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Fantasticks*. The busy singing-actor continues to have a wonderful career onstage in live theater and on film and behind the scenes; teaching, directing, designing and building, in voice-overs and modeling, in interior design and home carpentry. The Manhattan School of Music alumni has served on the theater and music faculty at several Universities and Colleges: Emory and Henry, East Tennessee, Milligan and Western Carolina University's Stage and Screen Department as vocal instructor. He recently returned to Lees Mcrae Summer Theater as Sam in *Mamma Mia* and HART as Robert Kincaid in *The Bridges of Madison County* following his sold-out success as Music and Stage Director, and starring as Johnny Cash in *Million Dollar Quartet*, a show he also debuted with Lees McRae Summer Theater the summer prior. Some other recent credits include starring roles in *I Do, I Do*, *The Pajama Game*, *Mary Poppins*, Moses Cone in *The Denim King*, Billy in *Carousel*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, Dracula, Marcello in *La Boheme* and Robin Hood; *The Legend of Sherwood*, to name a few of his favorites. Dominic created the role of Jaffrey in the New York World Premiere of *The House of Seven Gables* and appears in the Original Cast Recording on Albany records.



**Chelsea Cribbs**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Accompanist**

She is a graduate of Florida State University. She is a piano and guitar instructor in her own private studio, and she also teaches music at French Broad River Academy for Girls. Chelsea is the accompanist for Asheville Youth Choir's Concert Choir. She served as an accompanist with the Asheville Lyric Opera. In addition to piano Chelsea also plays various instruments such as guitar, banjo, mandolin and ukulele.



**Chelsey Gaddy**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Musical Theatre Director**

Chelsey Lee Gaddy is a native of Asheville, NC and a graduate of Mars Hill University. She moved back to Asheville 6 years ago after a diverse career in Pigeon Forge, TN, where she did everything from playing Lucille Ball to singing backup for Dolly Parton. Her MFA in Acting from Florida Atlantic University has provided a variety of experience in both teaching and performance. If you're a regular theatre patron in Western North Carolina, you've definitely seen her onstage in productions such as Bright Star, Avenue Q, or The Great American Trailer Park Musical. She is so pleased to have the chance to facilitate relevant career building opportunities as the director of the MHU Musical Theatre program, as well as serving as Senior Artistic Director for one of WNC's only professional theatre companies, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre.



**Amanda Hoyte**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Dance Program Director**

Amanda Hoyte is the Dance Program Director and adjunct professor in the Theatre Arts Department at Mars Hill University. With over 25 years of formal dance training in styles including ballet, tap, and jazz dance, and over 20 years of theatrical and concert stage performance experience, she has devoted her dance career to building a diverse dance community in Western North Carolina and to educating individuals of all ages in the art and joy of music through movement. She is a proud graduate of both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Psychology, and the University of South Florida with a M.S. in Medical (Health) Sciences. She has traveled and performed with dance companies in cities across America and is well-known regionally as a performing artist,

choreographer, and dance teacher. Amanda's most recent performance appearances have been in music videos for artists including The Get Right Band, Alfred Nomad, and Eleanor Underhill. She is also active as an improvisational rhythm tap dancer in Asheville's live music scene. As an instrumental tap dancer-musician, Amanda founded her own professional performance company Sweet Beats Tap Troupe and is a leader in the NC Chapter of the Souther Open Rhythm Collective. Amanda continues to resident teach, guest teach, and choreograph for several dance studios in WNC, including Art of Dance Studio in Flat Rock, NC, where she is a tap and jazz choreographer for the competitive dance team. Amanda is grateful to the Theatre Arts Department at MHU and to SART for making it possible, despite uncertain times in the wake of the pandemic, to safely put on a stage production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, and for allowing her to be a part of it!



**Anne Knight**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Costume Shop Manager**

A native of Asheville, Anne's interest in theatre began with Asheville Community and Tanglewood Children's Theatres. She went on to graduate from North Carolina School of the Arts in Costumes. In her travels she has worked with the Opera Company of Boston, The Barter Theatre in Virginia, and Texas' well-known Alley Theatre. Anne went on to serve as Manufacturing Director for Frankel's Costume Co. in Houston Texas. Back to Virginia Anne worked in the Costume Shop at Busch Garden theme park, Williamsburg. She then opened her own shop costuming a variety of clowns, Civil War reenactors, ballet and Irish step dancers to mention a few groups. She did custom sewing for the physically challenged also. Returning to Asheville, she has worked with Asheville Lyric Opera, Ballet Conservatory Dance School, and Flat Rock Playhouse. Anne serves now as Costume Shop Manager for Mars Hill University.



**Richard Riccardi**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Accompanist**

Richard has accompanied such greats as Joel Grey, Martha Raye, Diahann Carroll, Tom Jones, Wesla Whitfield, Sharon McNight and Mel Tormé, and was associate conductor for the Third National Broadway Tour of Annie. He has played for the SF Symphony under Maestro Seiji Ozawa, for the San Francisco Opera and Ballet, music directed for the Lamplighters, Pocket Opera, the Summer Song Opera program, and The San Francisco Boys Chorus. At Davies Symphony Hall, he conducted the acclaimed Edith Piaf show by Rachel Bitton. He received his BMus at Oberlin Conservatory and his MMA from Yale University School of Music. He received the Mr. Holland's Opus award (founded by the Henry Mancini family) at Carnegie Hall in 2006 for his outstanding teaching of music. He frequently records at Skywalker Ranch for movies and video games, and it is entirely possible he's the guy playing piano on your ringtones. He and his wife Sandy have taken social media by storm with their parodies and original comedy song cabaret, with over 40 million hits and over 80,000 followers, which they perform in NYC, Cape Cod, San Francisco, Baltimore, North Carolina and Denver on a yearly basis.



**Richard Seagle**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Technical Director**  
**Associate Professor**

Richard holds a B.A. in Theatre from Catawba College and holds a M.F.A. degree in Design and Technical Theatre from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He has supervised all technical aspects of countless theatrical productions and special events in many local venues including the Biltmore Estate Outdoor Festivals and Asheville Community Theatre. Richard manages bookings and

supervises events taking place in Moore Auditorium on the campus of Mars Hill University. He serves as Designer and Technical Director for most departmental shows. Richard also designs for scenery for Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre in the summers as well as serving as production manager for the SART season. Richard's freelance design work includes set designs for mountain area groups such as Jericho Players, Parkway Playhouse, and Highland Repertory Theatre. Richard has received numerous awards which acknowledge his design work and academic work. Graduate set designs for *Of Mice and Men* and *The Three Sisters* were adjudicated by Ming Cho Lee in conjunction with the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (Region III). Designs for *The Three Sisters* received regional acknowledgement for best set design in a competition sponsored by the university. Richard was also honored this year by Catawba College and was inducted into their Blue Masque Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the theatre profession and his meritorious life in theatre.



**Andrew Zebroski**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
**Assistant Technical Director**

He has been in the field of technical theatre for over 20 years. He has been designing for SART the past two years as well as for numerous theatres in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and the New York City area. He was the recipient of two Metrolina Theater Association Awards in 2019 for Outstanding Lighting Design for *Curious Incident...* and Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical for *Mama Mia* at Hickory Community Theatre. Andrew has been Technical Director for American Stage Company, Millbrook Playhouse and Assistant Technical Director for Ramapo College of New Jersey.

# EMERITUS FACULTY



## **William Gregg**

Previous Theatre Arts Department Chair. He came to Mars Hill University from the New American Theater in Rockford, Illinois, where he was the producing artistic director. He has directed many productions all over the country, in New York City, Washington, DC, Minneapolis, and Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre. He has previously served as Artistic Director for Theatre Virginia in Richmond, where he staged *Harvey*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, and *Terra Nova* (which won best director, best production, best scenic design, and best supporting actor from Richmond critics). At the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Bill worked as production stage manager and assistant director to Artistic Director, Liviu Ciulei. Among Bill's directing repertoire are such plays as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Zelda*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Peter Pan*, *Grace and Glorie*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Always*, *Patsy Cline*, and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. In Bill's first year at Mars Hill College, he taught several classes and directed the theatre arts department's production of *The Little Foxes*. Bill was also the Producing Artistic Director of SART from 2000-2015. Bill is married to actress, singer, and RN, Elizabeth Aiello. They are the proud parents of Cameron Michael, Lucas James, and Emelia Anne. Bill holds a B.A. in Theatre from Mars Hill College and an M.F.A. in Drama/Acting and Directing from the University of Virginia.



## **C. Robert Jones**

Previous Theatre Arts Department Chair and the founder of the Musical Theatre Degree Program. He came to Mars Hill University after a four-year stint as Artistic Director of The Little Theatre in



Savannah Georgia (26 shows), and five years as Chair and Founder of the Theatre Arts Department at Gardner-Webb University. While in Savannah, he founded the Little Theatre's Drama School, started its Theatre Guild, and directed the theatre's first play for children. As Gardner-Webb University was going from Junior College to Senior College status, he built the four-year theatre arts degree program, and in the first senior graduating class saw five students achieve their BA's in Theatre Arts. Starting his theatre work first as an actor in Washington, DC, C. Robert moved to directing and playwriting. He has written about fifty plays covering the wide spectrum of theatre from children's plays to mystery plays, to romantic comedies, to serious dramas. He is also a composer. His musical, *Rivals*, which premiered at the University was a winner of the David B. Marshall Musical Theatre Award from the University of Michigan. His musical *Mandy Lou* was produced by SART, and the University produced his musical *Treasures* at its Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2006. He is author of three one- person shows about such diverse personalities as Jenny Lind, Bert Williams, and Stephen Foster. C. Robert was honored in 2011 with the Robert Chesley Foundation Playwriting Award for his plays, *The Love Quartette* and *The Catbird Seat*. That award also included a three-month writing residency at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico where he wrote a theatrical memoir, *I Like It Here!* His plays have been performed in all the forty-eight contiguous states and in Canada. Among those which have brought exceptional pleasure are *The Clown* (for children), *Chiaroscuro (Nocturne)*, which was a winner in Theatre Memphis's national play search, and *Taking A Chance On Love*, SART's ScriptFest Winner in 2005. His latest musical (*Broadway Babies*, 2016) is in development. C. Robert is also the author of the four-volume children's short story series, *Lanky Tales*.



### **Neil St. Clair**

Previous Theatre Arts Department Chair. He came to Mars Hill after 17 years as Chair of the Division of Communications and the Director of Theatre at Howard Payne University in Texas. He holds a B.M. in Music and a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Mars Hill College. After graduation he completed an internship at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., and then worked as a professional actor, stage manager, and music director for four and a half years. In 1981, he received an M.F.A. from the University of Houston and served an internship at Houston Grand Opera. He has completed his requirements (all but dissertation) for a Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University. St. Clair also served as Director of Theatre at Alief-Elsik High School, a 5A school in the Houston area from 1981- 1983. In 1995, Neil won the "Outstanding Faculty Member Award" for Howard Payne University. In 2011, he was awarded The Mars Hill College Faculty/Staff Heritage Award for dedicated and long-term service to the College. Mr. St. Clair began his relationship with The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre in 1978 and through the years worked as an actor, stage manager, and director. He also served as Production Manager from 2000-2009. Neil twice taught theatre courses in Oxford, England for the World Class Oxford Program, a consortium between Howard Payne University and two other Texas universities.

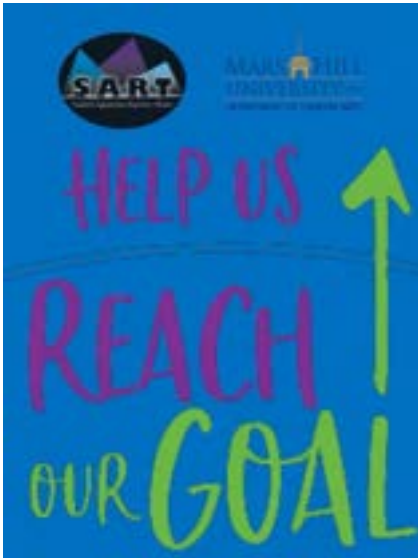


### **James W. Thomas**

Previous Theatre Arts Department Chair and the Dean of the Division of Fine Arts. He is also the founding director of the award-winning regional theatre, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, which he founded in 1975. He has also been honored with numerous awards and accolades, including the North Carolina theatre conference's distinguished career award and North Carolina's highest civilian award, the order of the Long Leaf Pine.

# SPECIAL THANKS

Please give credit to ASHEVILLE COMUNITY THEATRE and Deborah Austin for costumes they have loaned us.



SART & Mars Hill University Theatre Arts are joining forces to raise funds for the renovations of the Owen Theatre Green Room/Dressing Room. We are looking to raise \$12,000 for the renovations, new equipment and furnishings. Please send donations to:  
MARS HILL UNIVERSITY  
THEATRE ARTS  
PO BOX 6768  
100 ATHLETIC STREET  
MARS HILL, NC 28754

## THEATRE ETIQUETTE

**Please turn off all mobile phones and electronic devices and keep them off during the duration of the performance. Refrain from all flash photography and recording devices during the show.**

**Thank you!**

## THE ARTS ARE A POWERFUL, POSITIVE FORCE!

Performing arts contribute to our community's overall well-being. That's why we're reopening the theatre by following the guidance of local health organizations. See website.

**Together, with your help, we're committed to:**



Self-Check  
Symptoms



Physically  
Distance  
Follow



Clean &  
Disinfect  
Frequently



Use  
Sanitizing  
Stations



Wear Face  
Masks



SART

2021  
SEASON



# THE LAST FIVE YEARS

June 17th-July 4th

Written and Composed by  
Jason Robert Brown

## FIRST DATE

July 15th- August 1st

Music and Lyrics By  
Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner

Book By  
Austin Winsberg



## MILESTONES

September 30th- October 17th

A Dramedy in Two Acts  
By Gale Goech Alexander



## A SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS

December 2nd-December 19th

Written and Co-written By  
J. Ethan Henry and Richie Barlowe



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

December 2nd-December 19th

By Dwight Chiles  
Based on the novel by Charles Dickens



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