

# Who's Who in the Company

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**Scott Spence (Artistic Director)** Scott is excited to enter into his 20th season at the Beck Center. He hopes that as always you are enjoying the great diversity Beck Center offers. In his tenure as Artistic Director and

Associate AD, Scott has produced well over 200 productions, directing over 50 himself. The list of favorites grows every season, and includes *Altar Boyz*, *Parade*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Hair*, *The Secret Garden*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Greater Tuna*, *Reefer Madness*, *The Fix*, *Zombie Prom*, *Tommy*, *Urinetown the Musical*, and so many more, including last season's *The Farnsworth Invention* and *Evil Dead The Musical*. He is very proud of the awards and acclamations Beck has received over the past several years, and is especially grateful for having won the *Northern Ohio Live Award for Achievement in Theatre* in 2006. Outside of Beck's walls, Scott's directorial assignments have included *Das Barbecü* at Opera Cleveland and *Noises Off* at both Weathervane in Akron and Berea Summer Theatre. Occasionally on the other side of the footlights, Scott has appeared in *Dick Deadeye* (Berea Summer Theatre), *Man of La Mancha* (Jewish Community Center), *The Secret Rapture* (Dobama) and closer to home at Beck in *Big River*, *The Boys Next Door* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. He also recently had the privilege of joining the cast of *Passion*, directed by Victoria Bussert, in his first onstage stint in the Studio Theater. Scott holds an M.F.A. in Directing from Western Illinois University and is a trained stage fight choreographer, having studied extensively with the SAFD. As always, he dedicates his work to the two leading ladies in his life – Rachel and Carleigh.



**Matthew Earnest (Director)** Matthew returns to Ohio after his productions of *Alice...*, *Peter Pan* (Cleveland Scene Best Director 2007) and *Our Town* at Porthouse Theatre; a new version of *A Doll's House* at Weathervane Playhouse; and as

the 2008 Roe Green Visiting Director at Kent State University, his own translation of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Based in New York City, Matthew is an associate artist at English Theater Berlin and at the University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program, and he works around the country directing a wide range of material. His 2009 U.S. premiere of Juan Mayorga's *Himmelweg* received a *New York Times* Critic's Pick and will be remounted in NYC later this season. As Founding Artistic Director of deep ellum ensemble (1995-2007), Matthew created works that were presented in NYC and across the U.S., Europe and Africa. This spring he directs his own adaptation of Rebecca Solnit's *Wanderlust: A History Of Walking* at Cleveland Public Theatre.



**Libby Burchmore (Stage Manager)** Libby is thrilled to be making her debut as stage manager at the Beck Center where she's been working behind the scenes for over ten years. Most recently, she has not been seen in Beck

Center's *Peter Pan*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Libby would like to thank Scott and Matthew for giving her this opportunity, the cast for making her laugh, and her friends and family for believing in her even though she hasn't seen them for several months.



**Adam Thatcher (Agamemnon Buckner/Chicago)** Adam is thrilled to be working with the Beck Center for the first time. He recently graduated magna cum laude from The State University of New York at Fredonia with a BFA in

musical theatre. Recently, Adam has worked with Weathervane Playhouse as the guest chore-

ographer for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, acting in *A Doll's House* (Dr. Rank), stage managing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and as an acting instructor. Some of his recent credits include *Doctor Faustus* (Mephistopheles), *Side Show* (Terry Conner), *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo), and *The Elephant Man* (Dr. Treves). In addition working as a technical swing at the Carousel Dinner Theatre and performing in various musical theater workshops in Shimoda and Nagoya, Japan. Adam has also worked with such Broadway stars as Mike Cannon, Jodie Langel and Victoria Clark and has performed for RWS and Associates in New York.



**\*Tom Woodward (Hans Von Bismarck/Dutchy)**

Tom is pleased to be making his debut at the Beck Center. Locally, he appeared in *The Receptionist* (Mr. Dart) at Dobama, and this past summer was a part of the resident

company of Cleveland State University's Summer Stages in *The Shadow Box* (Joe) and *Chekhov in Yalta* (Nemirovich-Danchenko). Other Cleveland appearances include several readings of new works as part of The Fusion Festival with The Cleveland Play House, and in Little Box at Cleveland Public Theatre. Tom arrived in Cleveland a few years ago via Kansas City after nearly a decade of work in Los Angeles. Regional theater credits include: *Gross Indecency*, *Machinal*, and *Richard III* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre, *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night* with Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, and *Communicating Doors* at American Heartland Theatre. In Los Angeles, he starred in the west coast premieres of *Jack and Jill* and *Unexpected Tenderness*, as well as a critically acclaimed revival of *All My Sons* at The Egyptian Arena Theatre. He has also worked in film and television, including a small recurring role on the daytime drama *General Hospital*, and a featured role in the film *Cora Unashamed*, a part of the PBS Masterpiece Theatre series. Currently, he makes his home here in Cleveland, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.



**Laurel Johnson (Marie Leroux)**

Laurel last appeared at the Beck Center in *Holy Ghosts* (Nancy). Cleveland credits: *Big Love* (Olympia), *Quake* (That Woman), *Freakshow* (Amalia), *In the Garden* (Lizzie) at convergence-continuum; *A Comedy of Errors* (Ensemble) at Great Lakes Theater Festival; *Unethical* (Nora), *boom* (Jo), *Ictus* (Barbara) at Cleveland Public Theatre; *Some Girl(s)* (Lindsay), *Red Light Winter* (Christina), *Frozen* (Agnetha) at The Bang and The Clatter Theater Company; *Ten More Minutes from Cleveland* (Marie) at Dobama. Regional credits: *Picnic* in Inge Festival; *Measure for Measure* at Powerhouse Theater. NYC credits: *Rocket to the Moon* at Theatre-Studio; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Dramatics NYC. TV credits: *The Kill Point* on Spike TV and various commercials. Laurel studied acting with William Esper in Manhattan and earned a B.A. in Linguistics from Brandeis University. Thank you to her family and Geoff for their loving support.



**Liz Conway (Cecile Leroux/Le Faux)**

Liz is delighted to be returning to the Beck Center having last performed here in the 2007 production of *Frozen*. She has performed extensively throughout Northeast Ohio including Cleveland Public

Theatre, convergence-continuum, Dobama, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Lakeland Civic Theater, Cleveland Jewish Community Center, and Charenton Theater. She is a founding collaborator of The Spleeney Sisters, a delightfully twisted singing sister act, and has performed with various sketch and improv groups. She can next be seen in Cleveland Public Theatre's *Open Mind Firmament* directed by Raymond Bobgan.



**John Lynch (Papa Leroux)**

John first appeared at the Beck Center in the 1970s in a production of *My Fair Lady*. Over the years John has enjoyed working with Ensemble Theatre, Cleveland

Shakespeare Festival, Jewish Community Center, Karamu, Cain Park, and a host of other Cleveland area theaters in various and sundry roles. Coincidentally, he once played the role of Mark Twain in the Beck Center's production of *Big River*.



**\*Nicholas Koesters (Jean-Francois Millet/Widow Daisy Tillou)** Nick has lived and worked as a professional actor in Northeast Ohio since 1994 and has been a member of Actors' Equity since 2002.

Although he has performed in over 15 plays at the Beck Center, this is his first performance on the Main Stage this century. Some of his favorite roles include: *Singin' on the Ohio* at The Cleveland Play House, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at Playhouse Square, *Fully Committed* at the Beck Center, *Death of a Salesman* at Actor's Summit, *Night Bloomers* at Dobama, *Blasted* at The Bang and The Clatter Theater Company, *Alice* at Porthouse Theatre, and *Browns Rules* at Cleveland Public Theatre. Nick has been seen on Spike TV's *Kill Point* as Leon, and with Akron Public School's award-winning children's TV show: *Ask Gilby*, as Mr. Nick and the voice of Gilby. He resides in Tremont with his two beautiful muses.



**Curt Arnold (Bastien Andre)** Curt returns to the Beck Center where he appeared last season in *The Farnsworth Invention* and *Little Shop of Horrors* and directed *Talking Heads 2*. Previously at Beck, he has directed *The Lisbon*

*Traviata* and *Fully Committed*, stage managed six productions, and performed in a dozen or so plays and musicals. Since relocating from Columbus in 1994, he has worked with most Cleveland theater companies as an actor, director and stage manager. Each year, he co-produces and directs a staged reading of a musical to benefit the AIDS TaskForce of Greater Cleveland and the Community AIDS Network of Summit County.



**Lissy Gulick (Madame Bathilde/ Emperor of Russia)**

Lissy delightfully returns to Beck, where she got her "re-start" on the Cleveland professional stage in 1993, appearing in *Nunsense* (Mother Superior), *Sweeney*

*Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *Auntie Mame* (Mame), and *Something's Afoot* (Miss Tweed). Lissy has appeared in most of this area's best-known venues, including Playhouse Square: *We Gotta Bingo* (Helga) and *Shear Madness* (Mrs. Shubert); Cleveland Opera, Dobama, Cain Park, and Carousel Dinner Theater: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Yente) and *Funny Girl* (Mrs. Strakosh). She played pivotal five-line roles in two films: *Welcome to Collinwood* (mean nun) and *Antwone Fisher* (nice social-worker).



**Laura Starnik (Madame Caron/Sultan of Turkey)** It's

been many moons since Laura was last on stage at the Beck Center. She's glad to be back and always happy to take part in a farce. Previously at the Beck she performed in *Death*

*of a Salesman* and *Lost in Yonkers*. She has also had the good fortune to portray rich, funny characters in other shows around town, including *A Day In The Death of Joe Egg*, *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *The Constant Wife*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, and *The Way of All Fish*. She looks forward to appearing in *Humble Boy* at Dobama in May.



**John Peters (Phelim O'Shaughnessy)** John is just

plain happy to be home again on the stage at Beck Center. He is dumbfounded day in and day out by the talent of his fellow actors and the amazing production staff of *Is*

*He Dead?*. Credits include *The Wizard of Oz* (Cowardly Lion) and *Once upon a Mattress* (Dauntless) at Beck Center Youth Theater, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Chairman) and *Into the Woods* (Baker) at St. Joseph's High

School. John would like to dedicate his performance to his father's favorite feline, Chuck.



**Mark Seven (Basil Thorpe/Claude Riviere/Charlie/King of France)** Mark is an Ohio native and earned his Bachelor's degree in Music/Theatre from Wittenberg University. From there he has worked in theaters in New Mexico, New York, Illinois, and, of course, Ohio. Some favorite roles include *My Three Angels* (Felix), *The Mousetrap* (Mr. Paravicini) and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Barney Cashman). Mark currently owns and operates a Mystery Theatre Company that specializes in audience improv and comedy. His troupe consists of nearly two dozen players and they've performed throughout the U.S. for the past 15 years. This being his first experience at the Beck, Mark is thoroughly enjoying the company of so many talented professionals. Thank you, Matthew, for this wonderful opportunity!

**Don McBride (Scenic Designer)** Don is pleased to be back at Beck Center after spending more than 20 great years here. He is now teaching at Cleveland State University.

**\*Melissa Owens (Costume Designer)** This is Melissa's first costume project with the Beck Center. With an M.A. in Theatre from Miami University and an A.A.S. in Clothing Design/Construction from Seattle Central, she has designed and constructed costumes for Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA, several colleges and universities in Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, and Washington, and most recently, Weathervane Playhouse's production of *A Doll's House*. Melissa is also a member of the Actors' Equity Association and was recently seen in *Putting It Together* at Weathervane Playhouse and in *Forum* at Porthouse Theatre. Love to John, Mary and Rachel, and what fun to work with Matthew and Nick again!

**Joseph Carmola (Lighting Designer/Technical Director)** Joe enters his fourth season as Technical Director at the Beck Center. Hailing from Canton, in the past he has served as

Technical Director/Lighting Designer at the Canton Players Guild, The Magical Theatre Company, as well as Paul Green's *Trumpet in the Land*, and numerous freelance credits as well as design for *Les Miserables Jr.* which has been seen in many student programs throughout Northeast Ohio. He is also the proud father of Clayton and Lily who have always brought light to his life.

**Richard B. Ingraham (Sound Designer)** Richard is happy to return for his seventh season of work with Beck Center. Previous sound designs at Beck Center include: *Peter Pan* (2008 and 2009 productions), *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *The History Boys*, *Equus*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Agnes of God*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Richard is a freelance sound designer and has worked at numerous theater companies and schools in the Cleveland area and around the U.S., including: Ashland University, The Cleveland Jewish Community Center, The Cleveland Play House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland State University, Dobama Theatre, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Oberlin College, Shakespeare and Company, The University of Evansville, and The Willoughby Fine Arts Association. Richard also works for Stage Research Inc., an award-winning software company based in Cleveland that creates software tools designed for the performing arts and has also worked as a show control programmer and installer for clients such as Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Dialog in The Dark in Kansas City, The Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield IL, and Stone Mountain Park in Georgia.

*\*Member of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.*

