

Who's Who in the Company



Scott Spence (Artistic Director/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.



Larry Goodpaster (Musical Director) *The Producers* marks Larry's 53rd production at the Beck Center. An award-winning pianist while in high school, Larry followed quite a different path and obtained degrees in biology,

chemistry, veterinary medicine, and business over the next 20 years. Upon receiving his MBA in 1997, Larry decided to pursue musical theater in his recreational time. What started as an avocation quickly became an obsession. Thanks to the thoughtful tutelage and support provided by Beck Artistic Director, Scott Spence, he is now able to fill his evenings 12 months a year musically directing shows at multiple venues in the Cleveland area. Since January 2008, Larry has spent his days at the Beck Center as a volunteer business consultant. This past fall, he was hired as the Director of Business Operations at the Beck. As he begins his 12th year, he fondly remembers some of his favorite productions – Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Parade*, *Eating Raoul*, *Zombie Prom*, *Urinetown The Musical*, and *A Man of No Importance*. And as always, he congratulates our faithful patrons and loyal donors for keeping theater alive and vibrant in Cleveland – especially during these tough times. These charitable contributions not only support our professional theater, but also allow us to instill confidence and self-esteem in the children, youth and adults in our arts education classes. Thank you!

Mary Ann Black (Choreographer) A native of Northeast Ohio, Mary Ann received her MFA from Kent State University and BFA from Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. Her first professional job was with the Kenley Players where she performed for four seasons under the direction of Mr. Kenley. For the past 12 years she has taught all levels of tap and jazz for The University of Akron Dance Department and has choreographed for the University's Dance Company. She started the tap program at the

University of Akron's Dance Institute and continues to teach tap and jazz there. Mrs. Black teaches jazz for Great Lakes Youth Ballet and musical theater tap and jazz for Kent State University and choreographs their theater department's musicals. MaryAnn is one of the Associate Artistic Directors for Porthouse Summer Theatre in Ohio. She performs as well as choreographs and assistant directs many Porthouse productions. Mrs. Black brings quite a professional resumé to her teaching. While living in California, she played Maggie in the first national equity tour of *A Chorus Line* at the Schubert Theatre in Los Angeles and performed on Broadway when it became the longest-running American musical on Broadway. She starred in the ABC television series *Sugar Time!* with Barbi Benton and Didi Carr, guest starred on *Three's Company* with John Ritter and Suzanne Somers, taught for Jane Fonda and choreographed/performed in three of her exercise videos. She has performed in several television movies of the week, numerous commercials, and has sung our National Anthem for the Cleveland Indians and the Los Angeles Lakers. MaryAnn has come full circle choreographing *The Producers* at the Beck Center. While she was getting her formal training in dance from her mother, Charlotte Braun, she was studying acting at Lakewood Little Theatre, now the Beck Center.



Libby Burchmore (Stage Manager) Libby is thrilled to be working with such a fabulous cast and crew at her home away from home. She has been working behind the scenes at the Beck Center for over ten years.

Most recently, she has not been seen in Beck Center's *Is He Dead?*, *Peter Pan*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Libby would like to thank the crew for all their hard work, the cast for making her laugh, and her friends and family for their continuous support.



Mark Heffernan (Max Bialystock) Mark is excited to be making his Beck Center debut in *The Producers*. For a number of years Mark was an actual producer winning several regional Emmy awards while

serving as Director of Entertainment & Video Production for the Cleveland Cavaliers and WJW FOX-8, and this past May, Mark was named Manager of Athletic Affairs at Walsh University. Some of Mark's favorite shows and roles over the years include *Company* (Robert), *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (RP McMurphy), *The 1940's Radio Hour* (BJ Gibson), *Evita* (Ché), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus). Mark would like to thank his wife, Amy, for all of her love and encouragement along with their "supporting cast", daughter Hallie and son Spencer. Mark dedicates this performance in loving memory of his father...miss you Dad.



***Brandon Isner (Leo Bloom)** Brandon is thrilled to be ending his decade-long retirement from theater in *The Producers*. Despite this being his performing debut at the Beck Center, in the past he was no stranger to

Cleveland area theater. Those with long memories might remember him in *The Robber Bridegroom* (Goat) at Cain Park or in *Mim* (Ham) at the Cleveland Music Hall. He has also performed at the Carousel Dinner Theatre, with Trumpet in the Land in New Philadelphia and spent two seasons touring with the children's theater company, The Illusion Factory. He is a proud graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and hopes that the hard work of his instructors is still hard-wired somewhere in his brain despite the long layoff. He'd like to especially thank Randolph Pearson, the Obi-Wan Kenobi of acting...and the late Brian

Aschinger, the most knowledgeable man regarding musical theater the world has ever known. This show's for them. An avid sports follower, Brandon managed to keep his Cleveland fandom intact despite having spent 12 years living in New York City. He moved back to Cleveland this past August in a gallant attempt to finally finish his education. Other hobbies include reading full geek-level sci-fi books, hiking in the Cuyahoga Valley, riding his bike around Cleveland and somehow keeping his 1800s Ohio City home from falling apart. Brandon has performed in 30 different states and on and off Broadway, but the credits with which he is most proud are those that are inching him closer and closer to a degree in Urban/Environmental Studies at Cleveland State University.



Gilgamesh A. Taggett (Franz Liebkind) Gilgamesh is excited to return to the Beck Center stage after performing in *1776* (Rutledge) and *La Cage aux Folles* (Dindon) in past years. He has also been seen in *As You Like It* (Charles The Wrestler) and *Amadeus* (His Maker of the Cakes) at Great Lakes Theater Festival, *The Cult* (Warren) at Cleveland Public Theatre and many cabarets at The Cleveland Play House Club Cabaret. When not on stage he can be found at area venues entertaining for KIDD Productions of which he is also a manager. This one's for Blush.



Kevin Joseph Kelly (Roger DeBris) Kevin has enjoyed working on stage, film and TV. On stage, he has been an actor and/or directed at many of area theaters including the Beck Center for the Arts, Clague Playhouse, Cassidy Theatre, and The Cleveland Play House. On film, he portrayed "Chuckie" in *Edge of Seventeen*. On TV, he portrayed "Jimi

Sprinkles" on the Fox 8 morning show *That's Life* with Robin Swoboda during its debut year. Thanks to Scott, Larry and Mary Ann for this opportunity. Kevin dedicates this show to his mother, Marian D. Kelly. TPOG.



Chris Richards (Carmen Ghia) Chris is delighted to be making his Beck Center debut this summer. He earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from Kent State University. Recent Cleveland credits include *Death of a Salesman*

(Biff) at Lakeland Civic Theatre, *Gutenberg! The Musical!* (Doug) at Dobama, and *Twelfth Night* (Curio) at Great Lakes Theater Festival. Other productions include *Othello* (Cassio) and *The Comedy of Errors* (Second Merchant) at Ohio Shakespeare Festival; *Anything Goes!* (Henry T. Dobson), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (High Priest), and *Our Town* (Baseball Player) at Porthouse Theatre; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Scanlon) at The Barn Theatre; *A New Brain* (Gordon Schwinn), *The Pillowman* (Michal), *Scotland Road* (John), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Hamlet), and *Twelfth Night* (Orsino) at Kent State University. He is honored to be sharing the stage with such talented actors at the helm of a fantastic production team. Love and thanks to family, friends and teachers for constant love and support – you inspire me!



Betsy Kahl (Ulla) Previous Beck credits include *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Annie), *Urinetown the Musical* (Little Sally), and *Reefer Madness* (Mary Lane). Betsy was recently accepted into the Masters in Social Work program at Cleveland State University. She

hopes to do grief and bereavement work with kids incorporating animal assisted therapy and drama therapy. Much love to her best friends, Stuart and Rosie, and heartfelt thanks

to her Mama J. Eternal gratitude to Gramps who had it and flaunted it for 92 years. Proud card-carrying member of NARHA.



Elizabeth Adamescu (Little Old Lady/Storm Trooper/Ensemble) Elizabeth is thrilled to be back at the Beck Center after completing her first year at Kent State University. Some of her latest and favorite shows

include *Oklahoma* (Ensemble) at Kent, *My Favorite Year* (Ensemble) at the Beck, and Beck's Youth Theater production of *The Wizard of Oz* (The Jitterbug). She wants to thank Scott, Larry, and Mary Ann for believing in her and most importantly her family and James for putting up with her singing and dancing 24/7! You're the BEST!!! :D



Woodie Anderson (Workman/Sergeant/Ensemble) Woodie is happy to be back at the Beck Center and having fun with this great cast. This is like summer camp for big kids! Woodie has previously been seen at Beck in

Little Shop of Horrors, *My Favorite Year*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *1776* to name a few. Love to his kids, Zack and Alex.



Heather Brown (Nun/Little Old Lady/Ensemble) Heather is thrilled to be making her Beck Center debut in this production. She was most recently seen in *The Full Monty* (Pam Lukowski) at Huntington Playhouse.

Heather's favorite productions include *Cabaret* (Fraulein Kost) at Paramount Theatre, *Ruthless!* (Eve) at the Magnolia Arts Center, *Overtones* (Harriet Sterling) at Turnage Theatre, and the international tour

of *Working* (Grace Clements). Recent film credits: *Tick Bite* (Crystal Gail Cooper) with Noble Jester Productions. Heather would like to thank Scott Spence for this opportunity and sends her sincere gratitude to this amazing cast, her supportive husband, perfect children, and parents who still travel to see her perform!



Daniel Caraballo (Sabu/Little Old Lady/Ensemble) Dan will be entering his junior year at Kent State University where he is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. He is a 2008 graduate of St. Ignatius High

School. Dan was last seen in *Oklahoma!* (Ensemble) and *Rent* (Ensemble) at Kent State. He also recently appeared in *Once On This Island* (Daniel) at Near West Theatre. He would like to thank God, his friends and his family, especially his father, for all the support and strength they have given him.



Patrick Carroll (Mr. Marks/Jason Green/Ensemble) Patrick is happy to be back at Beck in such an incredible show! He has been seen on the Beck stage in *Urinetown the Musical* ('05 and '08 productions), *A Man of No*

Importance, *Seussical! the Musical*, *1776*, *Parade*, to name a few and has been seen on many other Cleveland and Akron stages for the past 35 years. Patrick is the Lead Massage Therapist at Soothe Massage and Wellness at Beachcliff Market Square in Rocky River. He is also a graduate of the American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York City. Love to his wife, Diana, his friends at Soothe Massage and Wellness and the Little Pirate Goats.



Jennifer A. Davies (Little Old Lady/Follies Girl/Ensemble)

Jennifer is delighted to make her Beck Center debut! Recently she was seen in *The Wedding Singer* at Weathervane Playhouse, *Crazy for You* (Tess) at Kent

State University Stark, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator) at Beachwood Theatre. Credits also include: *Inherit the Wind* (Juror) at The Cleveland Play House; *Proof* (Catherine) and *The Pajama Game* (Brenda) at Carnation City Players; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Mae), *Charlotte's Web* (Charlotte), *Peter Pan* (Peter), *Ragtime*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and others at Players' Guild. Known as "Jay-D," Jennifer is a local personality for Radio Disney and youth theater instructor here at Beck. She received her BA from Malone University and during a semester in LA, was seen on NBC's *Days of our Lives*. Jennifer dedicates this and every performance to her father, Robert Davies. Thank you!



Jason Falkofsky (Accountant/Heil-Lo/Ensemble)

Jason is thrilled to be making his Beck Center debut in *The Producers*. His recent credits include *Me and My Girl* at Mercury Summer Stock, *The Music Man* at

Cassidy Theatre, and *The Wizard of Oz* (Tin Man) at Brecksville Theatre on the Square. When not on stage, Jason can be found playing his favorite role as the Director of Choral & Liturgical Music at Saint Ignatius High School where he also serves as vocal music director for the spring musical.



Joe Fornadel (Newspaper Man/Stalin/Ensemble)

Joe is happy to be returning to the Beck Center for this production of *The Producers*. He was last seen on the Beck stage in

its production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Other Beck productions include: *On the Town*, *Eating Raoul*, *Dames at Sea*, and *The Full Monty*. His other theater credits include: *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Pippin*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Chicago*, *Mary Poppins*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Pajama Game*, and *BIG*. During the day Joe is a Lotus Notes Administrator at Parker Hannifin and in the evenings teaches salsa dancing at Viva Dance Studio in Strongsville and for Tropical Rhythms. Joe sends his thanks to his friends and family for their support. Thanks to the cast and crew for all their hard work and camaraderie. Lots of love to his wife, Adriana, for putting up with him.



Brittney Fowler (Little Old Lady/Follies Girl/Ensemble/Dance Captain)

Brittney is delighted about making her debut at the Beck Center in *The Producers*. Brittney has recently graduated from The University of Akron with a

BA in AYA Integrated Social Studies where she also participated in many productions such as *Cabaret*, *Big River*, *Sez She* and The University of Akron Dance Company. Prior to her college experience, Brittney was a veteran to the stage at Streetsboro Community Theatre where she danced and acted in shows such as *Honk!*, *42nd Street*, *Chicago*, *Godspell*, and many more. She is excited to be able to keep performing in such an extravagant show with fabulous dancing.



Tali Beth Friedman (Showgirl/Prisoner of Love/Ensemble)

Tali is thrilled to be making her debut at the Beck Center. A recent theatre performance graduate from the University of

Kansas, she was last seen in *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeney). Other credits: *Arms and the Man* (Raina), *Macbeth* (Witch 2), *The Spitfire Grill* (Shelby), *How to Succeed in Business...* (Smitty), and the world

premiere of *The Girl, The Grouch, and the Goat* by Tony Award-winner Mark Hollmann as Xanthippe. Lots of love and thanks to Mom and Dad, KF, DF, LV, JF, JK, BZ, and the rest of her wonderfully supportive family.



Alex Garrard (Scott/Storm Trooper/Ensemble) Alex is thrilled to be making his Beck Center debut in Mel Brooks' *The Producers!* A 2010 graduate of Barberton High School, he begins classes at

The University of Akron this summer, majoring in Music Education and Dance. Alex's credits include *Rent* (Angel), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Ching Ho), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Maurice). He has also appeared in *High School Musical*, *Ax of Murder*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and other various shows throughout Northeast Ohio. Alex would like to thank his Mom and grandparents for their ongoing support as he continues to grow in, and out of the theater.



Neely Gevaart (Ushette/Heil-Lo/Ensemble) Neely is relatively new to Northeast Ohio theater. Originally from Fort Wayne, she was last seen there in the Civic Theater's midwest premiere of *Frankenstein: A New Musical* (Justine).

She has a Bachelor of Music from Millikin University in Decatur, IL. She is very excited to actually be on stage at the Beck Center! She would like to thank Mom, Dad, Goodrich, Brenton and, most of all, Taco for all their love and support!



Jeff Glover (Churchill/Judge/Ensemble) Jeff's previous Beck credits include *You Can't Take It With You* (Man #1) and *The History Boys* (Man #2). All my love to Nicki - you are my reason for everything.



Holly K. Harris (Hooker/Storm Trooper/Ensemble)

Holly is excited to be returning to the Beck Center stage after having most recently been seen in the 2009 production of *Peter Pan* (Indian). Other shows include *West Side Story* (Anybods), *Dreamgirls* and *Cabaret* at Cassidy Theatre. During the day, Holly is a donor relations associate for University Circle Inc. She was a 10-year member of The Singing Angels and currently choreographs for the performing chorus. Many thanks to the cast and production staff for a wonderful experience.



Kris Hebble (Sanitation Guy/Bailiff/Ensemble)

Kris is excited to be back at the Beck Center with such a wonderful cast and crew. A few of Kris' favorite roles include *The Full Monty* (Dave), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Nachum), and *Beauty and the Best* (Bookseller) at the Beck Center for the Arts, *Oliver!* (Mr. Bumble) at Cain Park, *Once Upon a Mattress* (King Sextimus) and *Hello Dolly* (Barnaby) at Elyria Summer Theatre, and *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakam) at Olde Town Hall Theatre. Kris has just graduated from Cleveland State University with a Masters degree in History, and is currently looking for a career.



Kayla Hendry (Showgirl/Storm Trooper/Ensemble)

This is Kayla's first professional show. She is a member of the Melodymen and Melodettes (M&M) show choir and has been in *Carousel* (Louise) and *Footloose* (Rusty) at Cuyahoga Falls High School where she will be a senior in the fall. She has been dancing at All About Dance! by

Kristen in Stow for twelve years. Kayla recently became one of the first dancers in Northeast Ohio to become certified in her Professional Cecchetti Level Six ballet exam. She would like to thank her friends, dance teachers, and especially her Mom, Dad, brother, Connor and sister, Chuck for all of their support and love.



Zac Hudak (Showgirl/ Kevin/Ensemble) Zac is happy to return to the Beck Center stage in *The Producers*. Other Beck credits include: *Urinetown the Musical* (Old Man Strong/ Hot Blades Harry), Disney's

Beauty and the Beast (LeFou), *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Ed), and *La Cage aux Folles* (Hanna). Other area credits include: *Love! Valour! Compassion!* at Weathervane Playhouse (Buzz Hauser, 2009 YACTA Best Character Performance) and Kevin Joseph Kelly's award-winning production of *Cabaret* (Emcee). Zac also appeared at the 14th Street Theatre on Playhouse Square in *Ain't We Got Fun!* (Amanda Luze). NYC debut: Jennifer Danielle's *Shucked* (Manhattan Rep). This performance is dedicated to the memory of Nick Hoy.



Jennifer Justice (Kiss Me-Feel Me/Follies Girl/ Ensemble) Jennifer last stepped on to the Beck Center stage in the 2003 production of *La Cage aux Folles* (Cagelle). She has been performing in the area

for many years and has appeared in such productions as *Chicago* (Roxie Hart), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Cabaret* (Texas), *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Sally), *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille* (Virginia), and most recently as poet George Sand in Cleveland Public Theatre's Big [Box] Series' presentation of the original play *G.S.* by local playwright Jonathan Wilhelm.



Richard Larkin (Accountant/O'Houllihan/ Ensemble) Richard has been teaching dance classes at the Beck Center for almost two years, but this is his first time performing on stage in a professional theater production. He has performed previously with Dance 101 in Atlanta. Richard has also worked with the Atlanta Hawks and provided entertainment during game timeouts. He would like to thank Melanie Szucs, Beck's associate director of dance education, for taking a chance and hiring him – it has been a life-changing experience. As a result of his Beck connection, he has done a lot of outreach workshops in the area. Richard continues to expand his horizons and is currently studying massage therapy and should finish in December.



Jason LaVallee (Little Old Lady/Storm Trooper/ Ensemble/Dance Captain) Jason is currently enrolled at The University of Akron, majoring in Dance and Business. Jason has been dancing for over thirteen

years in various styles including tap, jazz, ballet, and modern. Aside from dance training, Jason has performed in theater productions at Streetsboro Community Theatre in shows such as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Godspell*, and *Honk*. He has also performed with The University of Akron Dance Company, Verb Ballet, the Doug Varone and Dancers Company, and as part of Touring Ensemble (choir). Other accomplishments include New York Senior Title Winner at Dance Educators of America's National Competition, winner of Playhouse Square's talent show, and Entertainer of the Year his freshman, sophomore and junior years at The University of Akron.



Hester Lewellen (Hold Me-Touch Me/Singing Hitler/Ensemble) Hester first came to Cleveland from New York City in 1975 with the national tour of *The Magic Show* (Charmin), but while

here she met her husband Glending, so love brought her back to stay. She is happy to be at Beck Center again where she performed in *The Crucible* (Sarah Goode) and *Spinning into Butter* (Dean Catherine Kenney). Recent shows include *The Carpetbagger's Children* (Cornelia Thompson) at Ensemble Theatre, *The Full Monty* (Jeanette) at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, *Pride and Prejudice* (Lady Catherine de Burgh) at Lakeland Civic Theatre, and *Cabaret* (Fraulein Schneider) at Aurora Community Theatre, where she also performed her one-woman memoir, *Three Years on Broadway*. But she says the real kick this spring was doing G.B. Shaw's *Arms and the Man* (Catherine Petkoff) at Hawaii Pacific University which was—yes—in Hawaii!



Alex Neidert (Blind Violinist/Little Old Lady/Ensemble) Alex is thrilled to return to the Beck Center in the cast of *The Producers*. He was last seen here in *Peter Pan* (Slightly Soiled).

Also this year, Alex appeared in his high school's production of *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd). Other favorite credits include: *Oliver!* (Fagin), *You Can't Take It With You* (Boris Kolenkov), *Don't Drink the Water* (Father Drobney), and *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* (Edward Emerson). Alex would like to especially thank his family and private teachers for all of their continued support.



Diane Pedee (Bavarian/Little Old Lady/Ensemble)

Diane is thrilled to be making her debut at Beck in *The Producers*. She earned a BBA in Marketing from Eastern Michigan University. Diane's recent credits include: *Crazy*

for You (Polly) at Kent State University Stark, *Proof* (Catherine) and *The Children's Hour* (Martha) both at Strongsville Community Theater, *Steel Magnolias* (Annelle) and *Nunsense* (Sister Leo) both at Broadview Heights Spotlights. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.



Frances Prusha (Opening Nighter/Lick Me-Bite Me/Ensemble) Frances is thrilled

to be working with this wonderful cast in *The Producers* here at Beck Center. She appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* last fall and also *Beauty*

and the Beast and *Chicago* here at Beck. At Tri-C West she performed in *Pippin*, *The Good Doctor*, *Music Man*, and *You Never Can Tell*. At Baldwin Wallace she appeared in *Evita* and *Carousel*. In the musical revue *Jerry's Girls* she performed solo and ensemble numbers at Strongsville Community Theatre. For two years she worked as a singing server at Castaldi's restaurant in Tower City singing musical theater.



Willaim Reichert (Heil-Lo/Prison Guard/Ensemble) Bill has been performing

with the Beck Center for quite some time now. His most recent work includes *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Peter Pan*, and *Ten Cents a Dance*. Bill

would like to dedicate his performance to the memory of Hubert and Martha Reichert.



Aaron Schoonover (Bryan/Heil-Lo/Ensemble) Aaron is so happy to be making his Beck Center debut with such a great show! He is currently a senior at Kent State University pursuing his BFA in Musical Theatre. Aaron's

notable credits at Kent include *Urinetown the Musical*, *Blood Brothers*, *Assassins*, and *14*. He has appeared regionally in *Children of Eden* (Cain) at Porthouse Theatre, *The Wedding Singer* (Sammy) at Weathervane Playhouse and *Forever Plaid* (Jinx) at Pickwick and Frolic in Cleveland.

his first time working with the Beck Center, and the experience has been fantastic. Jonathan received a BA in Music from Fresno Pacific University in Fresno, California. Since moving to Cleveland, Jonathan has been seen in *Big (The Musical)* (Paul Seymour) at The Royalton Players and *The Roar Of Gunfire...The Smell of Blood* (Paulie "The Gooch" Lagoochiati) with Backstage Productions to name a few. Jonathan currently works as a music teacher for Constellation Schools, and also has his own one-man show called *A Night Of Music and Comedy*. Special thanks to his wife, Stacy and his sons, Kyle and Spencer for all of their love and support.



Erin Shoemaker (Usherette/Heil-Lo/Ensemble) Erin is excited to be back performing on the Beck Center stage where she was last seen this past December in *Peter Pan* (Indian). Other Beck Center credits include

Reflections: Peggy Sings Leiber and Stoller (Young Peggy Lee) and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Local credits include *A Chorus Line* (Kristine) at Lorain Theater and *West Side Story* (Graziella) at Huntington Playhouse. Out-of-state credits include *Chicago* (Murderess) and *Broadway Live!* (Galinda). Erin is a recent graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Music Therapy program; if you know of an internship available please see her after the show. She would like to thank Scott, Larry, Mary Ann, and Libby for the opportunity to work with such an amazing cast. To Mom, Dad, Matt, Kyle, and Caitlin – I love you and thank you for all of your support!



Devon Shriver (Showgirl/Storm Trooper/Ensemble) This is Devon's fifth show at the Beck Center and she is proud to be part of such an amazing cast. Devon has a degree from The University of Akron in Musical Theater and

Child Development. She teaches in the youth theater and dance education departments here at Beck. She also choreographs around the Northeast Ohio area – her latest endeavor being *Seussical the Musical!* for Beck's youth theater. Her favorite roles include *Grease* (Rizzo), *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown) and dancing the role of "Arabian Coffee," in *The Nutcracker*. Devon would like to thank her wonderful boyfriend, Joe, for always being there after rehearsals to rub her sore, aching "tapping feet!"



Jonathan S. Short (Jack Lapidus/Lead Storm Trooper/Ensemble)

Jonathan is pleased to appear as the Storm Trooper, as well as many other parts throughout this production. This is



Kelsey Smith (Showgirl/Storm Trooper/Ensemble)

Kelsey is thrilled to be back at the Beck Center to perform in *The Producers!* She is currently a Theater major and Entrepreneurship and Dance minor at Baldwin-Wallace

College. Kelsey has studied jazz, tap and ballet for 16 years and has loved every minute of it. She would like to thank her parents for giving

her the opportunity to do what she loves, as well as the cast and crew for making this such a wonderful experience! Enjoy the show! Hail, I'm counting on you to see it at least 15 times...



Jeff Sneed (Workman/ Little Old Lady/Ensemble) Jeff is thrilled to be appearing on the Beck Center stage for the first time. Jeff is working towards a BAC in Musical Theatre at Bowling Green State University. In the Cleveland

area, he was last seen in *Antony and Cleopatra* (Alexas/Proculeius) and *The Winter's Tale* (Dion) at the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival. Recently, he has been seen in *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian) at the Beautiful Kids Independent Shakespeare Festival and *Mother Courage and Her Children* (The Recruiting Officer) at Bowling Green State University. He sends all his love to his ever-supportive friends and family.



Rachel Spence (Bag Lady/ Shirley/Ensemble) Rachel is happy to be directed by her husband Scott Spence after 14 years. The last show she did for him, he cast her as the pregnant hippie (Jeannie) in *Hair* and a few months later, she

was pregnant with their now 13-year-old daughter Carleigh. Past shows include *Auntie Mame* (Agnes Gooch) and *Assassins* (Squeaky Fromme). Rachel won the 2008 Best Actress in a Comedy -Best of Cleveland Theatre Award for her last show at the Beck Center, *My Favorite Year* (Alice). During the day, Rachel is a youth theater director/playwright and a teaching artist.



Lauren Vaughn (Showgirl/ Storm Trooper/Ensemble) Lauren is currently a Dance major at The University of Akron. This is her first time performing at the Beck Center of the Arts, but she

has appeared in numerous other productions including *Rent* (Ensemble) at the North Canton Playhouse where she is also a resident choreographer. Lauren is excited to have been given this wonderful opportunity and would like to thank her parents for their endless support.



Brian Walsh (O'Riley/ Prison Warden/Ensemble)

Brian is very excited to be in his first Beck Center production. He recently rekindled his love for theater in *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks) with Mighty Goliath Players. An

almost life-long Clevelander, Brian would like to thank Scott for giving him the opportunity to be a part of such a talented group of people and Jenny, Kelly, Molly, and Megan for all their love and support.



Monica Zach (Nun/Little Old Lady/Ensemble) Monica is thrilled to be back at the Beck Center for this fantastic show! She was previously seen in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Grandma Tzeitel) at Beck Center, *A Chorus Line*

(Maggie) at Lorain Community Music Theater and *The Women* (Miss Watts) at Cassidy Theatre. Monica just graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College with a degree in Theatre and Arts Management and is currently working with Combined Efforts Productions, a local film company. She is excited to be working with her brother, Mark (crew) once again! Monica would like to thank her family and Alex for their love and support.

*Actor appears courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

Ben Needham (Scenic Designer) Ben returns again this season to design the set for this production of *The Producers*. Previous designs at Beck Center also include holiday favorites *Peter Pan* ('08 and '09 productions) and the critically-acclaimed *Beauty and the Beast*. He is the founder of Digital Squirrel Studio, a full-service theater design, 3-D animation and architectural illustration studio. Ben has designed over 90 productions for a number of theaters in the Cleveland and Atlanta areas. He has worked with organizations such as Geauga Lake, Signstage on Tour, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Stage Crafters, the Jewish Community Center/Tri-C East, The Fine Arts Association, Porthouse Theatre, LaGrange Opera, and Lyric Opera of Cleveland. He would like to thank Christie, Aaron and Helen for all their support.

Trad A Burns (Lighting Designer) Trad is a lighting and scenic designer based in Boston, his career has spanned theater, dance, amusement parks, as well as architectural and retail lighting. Designing over 400 productions during the last two decades, his varied work has been seen around the world. His extensive credits include designs for Boston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet British Columbia, Washington Ballet, Spectrum Dance, Verb Ballets, New York Theatre Workshop (NYC), La Mama ETC (NYC), HERE (NYC), Classic Stage Company (NYC), The Public Theatre (NYC), The Cleveland Play House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cedar Point, ValleyFair, Knott's Berry Farm, Kings Island, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disneyland Japan, Disney Sea, Disney Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines, Universal Studios Florida & Japan, Woodstock Ice Productions, and The Family of Charles M. Schulz. Recent theater designs include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Altar Boyz*, *The Farnsworth*

Invention, *Urinetown the Musical*, *Song & Dance*, *The History Boys*, among others for the Beck Center; *Inherit the Wind* and *Doubt*, directed by Associate Artistic Director Seth Gordon, for The Cleveland Play House; *Death of a Salesman* and *Sweeney Todd* at Lakeland Civic Theatre. As resident designer for Cleveland Public Theatre, Trad has designed *Open Mind Firmament*, *The Alice Seed*, *Goldstar Ohio*, *Our Town*, *Sleep Deprivation Chamber*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, *The Secretaries*, *Venus*, *Stone Cold Dead Serious*, *Bright Room Called Day*, *Nickel and Dime*, *Dojoji*, *The Confessions of Punch & Judy*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Discordia*, *Blue Sky Transmission: A Tibetan Book of the Dead*, *Summer and Smoke*, *The Fugitive Pieces*, and *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.

Alison Garrigan (Costume Designer) Alison is now enjoying her eleventh season designing at Beck. Her work here has been seen in such productions as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Jekyll & Hyde the Musical*, *Urinetown the Musical*, *Hamlet*, and *The Seagull* to name a very few. Elsewhere, her work has been seen in *Wanderlust*, *The Alice Seed*, *Pulp*, *Our Town*, *Goldstar Ohio*, *A Bright Room Called Day*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, among others at Cleveland Public Theatre; *Annabella Eema* at Theatre Ninjas; and *Speech & Debate*, *W;T;Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, *Fuddy Meers* at Dobama. She also designs for the Cleveland Institute of Music's Opera Stage (*Ariadne Auf Naxos*, *Die Fledermaus*), for Cleveland State University (*The Alchemist*, *The Oresteia*), for CSU Summer Stages (*The Shadow Box*, *Chekhov in Yalta*, *Return to Forbidden Planet*) and for Great Lakes Theater Festival/CMSD (*Guys and Dolls*, *Hot Mikado*, *South Pacific*). Also a director, actress and singer, her work has been seen on many area stages. *Cariad*, *Wolf*.

Joseph Carmola (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, *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.

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▪ **Dance Alliance of Beck Center (DABC)**

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