

Who's Who in the Company



Scott Spence (Artistic Director) This marks Scott's 24th season at Beck Center for the Arts! Since 1990, he has produced well over 200 productions, directing over 75 himself. The list of favorites grows every season, and includes

Parade, A Man of No Importance, Sweeney Todd, Hair, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Farnsworth Invention, Reefer Madness, The Fix, Zombie Prom, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Evil Dead The Musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and the box office smash hits *The Producers* and *Altar Boyz*. Last season Scott added to those favorites with productions of *Annie* and the very, very silly *Monty Python's SPAMALOT*. He is very proud of the awards and acclamations Beck Center has received over the past decade, and is especially grateful for having won the Northern Ohio Live Award for Achievement in Theatre in 2006. Outside of these walls, Scott's directorial assignments have included a remounting of Beck Center's hit production of *Altar Boyz* at PlayhouseSquare's beautiful Hanna Theatre, *Das Barbecü* at Opera Cleveland, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* at Case Western Reserve University's Eldred Theatre, *Oh Dad Poor Dad....* at Cleveland State University Summer Stages and *Noises Off* at both Weathervane Playhouse in Akron and Berea Summer Theatre. An adjunct faculty member at Cleveland State University, Scott has also had the privilege to direct Sartre's *No Exit* and Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. 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 Center in *Big River, The Boys Next Door* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. He also had the privilege of joining the cast of *Passion*, directed by Victoria Bussert, in his only onstage stint in the Studio Theater. Scott holds an MFA in Directing from Western Illinois University and is a trained stage fight choreographer, having studied extensively with the SAFD. As always, he dedicates all the work he does to his two extraordinarily talented leading ladies, Rachel and Carleigh. You both amaze me every day.



Donald Carrier (Director) Selected directing credits include *The Misanthrope* and *Too True to be Good* for the Case Western Reserve University / Cleveland Play House MFA Acting Program, *The Crucible*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*,

Alms, Twelfth Night, As You Like It, Habebas Corpus, The Pirates of Penzance and *Oh! What a Lovely War*. Don will be directing *Becky Shaw* next season at Dobama Theatre. Regional acting credits include *Yentl; In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play; Ten Chimneys; Noises Off; and Lincolnesque* at Cleveland Play House; *The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing, King Lear,* and *The Tempest, The Old Globe; Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival; A Christmas Carol, Great Lakes Theater; Shining City, Studio Theatre; Noises Off, Maltz Jupiter Theatre; The Duchess of Malfi, Richard III, The Shakespeare Theatre; Arcadia, Wilma Theater; Gross Indecency, Huntington and Intiman Theatres; Shakespeare in Hollywood, TheatreWorks; and The School for Scandal, Chicago Shakespeare Theater.* Highlights of nine Stratford Festival seasons include *As You Like It, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Merchant of Venice, Measure for Measure* and *Twelfth Night*. At the Shaw Festival, he appeared in *Candida, Arms and the Man* and *Too True to be Good*. Television/film: *Guns, The Time Traveler's Wife, The Passion of Ayn Rand,* and *Dead by Monday*. Don is the Associate Director of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program.



Becky Adams (Stage Manager) is pleased to be back at Beck Center for the Arts after having most recently stage managed 33 *Variations* in the Studio Theatre and *Monty Python's SPAMALOT* on the Mackey Main Stage. She

has previously stage managed *The House of Blue Leaves* and *The Little Dog Laughed* and assistant stage managed *Annie* here as well. Becky earned a BA in Theatre from Baldwin Wallace

University. Since graduation, she has worked on *God of Carnage* and *The Mighty Scarabs* at Dobama Theatre. Becky stage managed *Children of Eden* at TrueNorth Cultural Arts. Other projects include: *A Little Night Music*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *Company* at Fairmount Performing Arts Center. She also assists on productions for North Coast Men's Chorus and Verb Ballets in Cleveland. Special thanks to all her friends for their unending love and support.

Cameron Cerny (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on his fourth production at Beck Center for the Arts. Coming off of *CARRIE the musical*, *33 Variations* and *Monty Python's SPAMALOT* (Assistant Stage Manager), Cameron is glad to return. Past credits from Berea High School include *Into the Woods*, *The Crucible*, and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Stage Manager). He'd like to thank his family for their overwhelming support.



Brian Gale (Douglas) is a recent graduate of Oberlin College where he majored in Theatre with a focus in performance. While at Oberlin, Brian appeared in several department productions. He most recently played Pastor

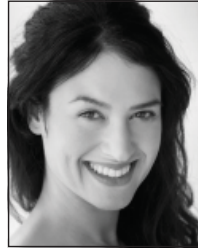
Manders in *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen. This is his professional debut outside of Oberlin. He feels honored and privileged to be a part of *Seminar* at Beck Center for the Arts.



Andrew Gombas (Martin) is excited to be making his Beck Center debut in *Seminar*. His most recent Cleveland credits include *Cock* at Dobama Theater, *Cymbeline* at the Ohio Shakespeare Theater, and *The Emperor's Ears* at Talespinner

Children's Theater. In addition to performing onstage, Andrew spent the last two years working as a teaching artist in Cleveland area schools for Great Lakes Theater, and also performs as a singer/songwriter in the Cleveland/Chicago areas. Andrew graduated from Oberlin College in 2012 with a BA in the

Narrative Arts. Endless thanks to the cast and crew of *Seminar* who made this experience so wonderful!



Lara Knox* (Kate) is thrilled to be making her Beck Center debut. Recent Northeast Ohio credits include *Moon For The Misbegotten* with Dougfred Miller (Josie) at Coach House Theatre, *Cock (W)* at Dobama Theatre, *The Miracle*

Worker (Annie) at TrueNorth Cultural Arts and *The Comedy of Errors* (Adriana) at Ohio Shakespeare Festival where she's been a company member for 8 years and for which she received a Superior Achievement nod from the Cleveland Critics Circle Awards, 2013. A graduate of the MFA program at Penn State and a member of the Actors' Equity Association, Lara would like to thank Don for the opportunity, the VTR for their cooperation and her family and friends for their love and support.



Scott Plate* (Leonard) is very happy to return to Beck Center, having appeared in *Spring Awakening* and *Next to Normal*. An award-winning actor and director, Scott's work in a wide variety of classical, contemporary

and music theatre productions has been featured on the stages of Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, Seven Stages, the Actor's Express, and the Neighborhood Playhouse; on North Carolina's Outer Banks in *The Lost Colony* and out west at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. Since arriving in Cleveland in 1993, he has directed or performed in over 150 productions at such venues as Severance Hall, Music Hall, Great Lakes Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Beck Center, Porthouse Theatre, and Cain Park. Scott's feature film credits include HBO Pictures' *Proximity* and Micar Productions' *The Sleep of Reason*. He is an active voice-over artist with over 300 recordings to his credit, and is proud to serve as Music Theatre Department Chair at Baldwin Wallace University. AMDG



Aily Roper (Izzy) is delighted to be working on *Seminar* as her first show at Beck Center. A recent Oberlin graduate with a double major in Theater and Politics, she's appeared in college main stage shows including *The Promise* (Lika), and

Strike-Slip (Angie), and a student-produced rendition of *The Bald Soprano* (Mrs. Smith). You also might have seen her having cake thrown in her face during *Iphigenia 2.0* (Bridesmaid) at the Cleveland Public Theater. She's excited to be spending the rest of her summer working as a Literary Assistant at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago, Illinois, and ready for whatever fun comes her way afterwards! Much love to her parents.

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

Trad A Burns (Lighting Designer) is a lighting and scenic designer based once again in Cleveland, Ohio. Designing over 500 productions during the last two decades, his varied work has been seen around the world. His extensive credits include designs for North Shore Music Theatre (Boston), 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, Beck Center for the Arts, Boston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, Washington Ballet, Spectrum Dance, Verb Ballets, Inlet Dance Theatre, Cedar Point, Knott's Berry Farm, Kings Island, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disneyland Japan, Disney Sea, Woodstock Ice Productions, and The Family of Charles M. Schulz. Recent designs include: *The Nutcracker* for Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet Hawaii, the World Premier of *The Center of the Earth* for Inlet Dance Theatre, *Next to Normal* at Lakeland Civic Theatre, and *Monty Python's SPAMALOT* at Beck Center for the Arts.

Joseph Carmola (Technical Director) is in his seventh year as Technical Director at Beck

Center. In the past Joe has served as Technical Director for the Canton Players Guild, Magical Theatre Company and Paul Green's Trumpet in the Land. His freelance credits include lighting design and scenic artist, as well as a set design for *Les Misérables: School Edition*, which has been seen in many student programs throughout Northeast Ohio. He is the proud father of Clayton.

Cameron Caley Michalak (Scenic Designer) is the Technical Director for Cleveland Play House. He has also designed sets for their productions of *Venus In Fur*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor*; and *A Soldier's Tale with Catch and Release*. Cameron has designed for Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House MFA Acting Program's *The Misanthrope* and *The Winter's Tale*, and many Cleveland Play House Theatre for Children productions. Selected local credits include *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Cinderella*, *Children of Eden*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at TrueNorth Cultural Arts; *The Music Man* and *Les Misérables: School Edition* at Fairmount Performing Arts Center; *Ten More Minutes from Cleveland* at Dobama Theatre; and *Shrek: The Musical* and *Into the Woods* (among many others) for the Music, Arts and Drama (M.A.D.) Factory in Oberlin.

Cyrus O. Taylor (Sound Designer) is excited to be designing his first Beck Center production. He is a 2012 graduate of Case Western Reserve University, with a BA in Theater Arts. Cyrus is currently working as the Alma Theater Sound Technician at Cain Park, and has worked as an audio engineer for the Cleveland Museum of Art. Cyrus is also the technical director for Mayfield High School's theater department. In addition, Cyrus has been a sound engineer at MoMA, PS1, and Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City. In Cleveland, he designed sound for Case Western Reserve University's production of *Measure for Measure*, and was the sound technician for Cleveland Public Theater's world premiere of *Titus: A Grand and Gory Rock Musical*, as well as Dobama Theater's production of *Gutenberg! The Musical!*. Cyrus has also acted as dramaturg for numerous productions in at Cleveland Play House and CWRU's Eldred Theater.