# Sense and Sensibility By Kate Hamill, based

on the novel by Jane Austen



**Directed by Noah Racey** Original Score by Aaron Gandy

MARCH 26 - APRIL 23, 2022

Playing at the Lincoln Center Magnolia Theatre 417 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins



"Perhaps the greatest stage adaptation of this novel in history."

- Huffington Post



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Producing Artistic
Director

Sense and Sensibility
By Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Jane Austen

Bruce and Denise Freestone Founders

Directed by Noah Racey Music Direction by Aaron Gandy Choreography by Noah Racey

Scenic Design by Jeff Jesmer
Costume Design by Elise Kulovany
Lighting Design by Brian Miller
Music Composed by Aaron Gandy
Sound Design by Mason Dill
Properties Design and Set Dressing by Jan Buecher
Hair/Wig Design by Carly Ackerman
Make-Up Design by Victoria Villalobos

Aubrey Stalnaker, Stage Manager
Akolotu Moeloa, Assistant Director
Akolotu Moeloa and Alana Eisemann, Floor Managers
Sydney Parks Smith and Judith Allen, Production Managers
Caleb Gilbert, Technical Director

#### March 26 to April 23, 2022

Thursdays · March 24 & March 31 · 7:30pm
Fridays and Saturdays · 7:30pm
Sundays · April 3 & April 10 · 2:00pm
Student/Educator Performance · March 24 · 7:30pm
Pay-What-You-Can Performance · March 31 · 7:30pm
ASL Performance · April 3 · 2:00pm
FAB Friday · April 1 · 7:30pm
Sponsored by

Lincoln Center Magnolia Theatre
417 West Magnolia Street · Fort Collins, Colorado

Sense and Sensibility is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

The world premiere of Sense and Sensibility was produced by Bedlam (Eric Tucker, Artistic Director; Andrus Nichols, Producing Director).

OpenStage Theatre  $\theta$  Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization not-for-profit professional theatres.

### 500

#### CAST | MUSIC | PLACE | TIME

#### **CAST**

Elinor Dashwood	Bryn Frisina
Marianne Dashwood	Brikai Cordova
Mrs. Dashwood/Anne Steele/Gossip	Esther Goldman
Margaret Dashwood/Mrs. Ferrars/Gossip	Kelby Jakober
John Dashwood/John Willoughby/Gossip	Bruce Gammonley
Edward Ferrars/Robert Ferrars/Gossip	Kiernan Angley
Fanny Dashwood/Lucy Steele/Lady Middleton/Gossip	Molly McGuire
Colonel Brandon/Thomas/Gossip	Dan Tschirhart
Mrs Jennings/Gossip	L. Michael Scovel
Sir John Middleton/Servant/Doctor/Gossip	Sydney Parks Smith

#### **MUSIC**

(Alto Flute, Soprano Flute, Drum, Keyboard)
Victor Walters

#### **PLACE & TIME**

England, 1790's

Sense and Sensibility runs approximately 2 hours with a 15 minute intermission.

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Master Carpenter	Jeff Jesmer
Head Seamstress	Elise Kulovany
Scenic Painter	James Burns
Master Electrician	Hannah Armstrong
Sound Engineer/Sound Mixing Operator	David Walters
Sound/Music Editor	Chris Carignan
Sound Engineering Consultant	Grant Putney
Properties Supervisor/Wardrobe Supervisor	Jan Buecher
Specialty Carpenter	L. Michael Scovel
Specialty Welder	Caleb Gilbert
Costuming Assistant	Becky Evans
Stage Violence Advisor	James Burns
Dance Captain	Brikai Cordova
Fight Captain	Sydney Parks Smith
Sound Board Operator	Maggie Albanese
Light Board Operator	Morgan Taylor
Floor Managers	Akolotu Moeloa, Alana Eisemann
Company Photographers Kate Austin-Gröen, Steve Finnestead	
Joe Hovorka, Brian Miller, & Aubrey Stalnaker	
Company Videographer	Steve Finnestead
Poster Designer	Brys Scotland
Program Designer	
Set-In Crew Joe Bakel, Malini Bartels, James Burns, Bryn Frisina,	
Soleil Lean Geddes, Caleb Gilbert, Esther Goldman, Brandy Hodgson,	
Arthur Judson, Jessica MacMaster, Bill Pool, Steve Sickles, & Sydney Parks Smith	
Electrics CrewJudith Allen, Hannah Armstrong, Ezra Beecher,	
Marissa Dienstag, Steven Fox, Mercedes Gil, Jack Krause,	
	Brian Miller, & Grant Putney

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#### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Every step, every word, every movement will be marked on your permanent record! And if you fall, you have so very far to fall!

Welcome to Cancel Culture in the 1700s where the viable roles women can play in life are corseted tightly between being the property of a man and spinster redundancy. Yet, even through this infuriatingly small window, the sunlight of our heroines' spirits pours into all of us, asking us to go within and admit how we, in the words of Jane Austen...

"...discover the falsehood of [our] own opinions, and counteract, by [our] conduct, [our] most favorite maxims."

We continue to evolve. Led by our youthful idealism we all work within, through, and against the confines we are handed by our elders, maneuvering their bulky structures as best we can, continually asking for more authentic freedom, and continually finishing our daily battles in the arena of our own heart.

Noah RaceyDirector







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on the Orient Express

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Kathleen

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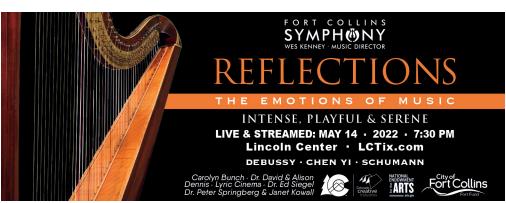
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NOAH RACEY, Director/
Choreographer, is the Head of Musical Theatre at CSU; as a Boston Conservatory Graduate, he is a product of—and strong proponent for—

arts funding in public schools. Noah has worked extensively in New York City. His Broadway credits include The Terms of My Surrender (Choreographer, Starring Michael Moore, dir. Michael Mayer), Curtains (Bobby Pepper), Never Gonna Dance (Lucky Garnett), Thoroughly Modern Millie (Associate Choreographer, Ensemble), and Follies (Young Theo). Other NYC performances: The Fix (Director/Choreographer/Performer -Collaboration w/Jason Robert Brown @ SubCulture), David Loud: Facing the Music - Lyrics & Lyricists (Director/ Choreographer 92nd Street Y), Earnest in Love (Irish Rep), Syncopation (York Theatre). Workshops: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (dir. Sam Mendes), Yank (dir. David Cromer), Cirque du Soleil (dir. David Shiner). Outside of NYC, his Regional credits include Music Man (Asolo Rep Theatre, dir. Jeff Calhoun), Road Show (Signature DC, dir. Gary Griffin), Henrik Ibsen's GHOSTS (ArtsWest Playhouse), Annie Get Your Gun and Show Boat (Goodspeed Opera House 2X Winner - Connecticut Critics Circle award for best choreography). Showboat (Asolo Repertory), Guys & Dolls (Seattle 5th Ave), Noah Racey's: PULSE (Asolo Repertory Theatre, dir. Jeff Calhoun). Watch for Noah's solo memoir show. Mountain Grove

(Symphony Space, Theatre Aspen, dir. Dick Scanlan).



AARON GANDY, Music Director/ Composer, has worked professionally for many years in New York and nationwide. Musicals include Acey Deucey, Whirligiq,

Samantha Single-Handed (Noah Racey, lyricist and co-author), The Crynolynns, Love (r)Evolution, and the children's musical, Huxley Ann. In NYC, Aaron's music direction includes The Lion King, Just Jim Dale, The Shaggs, Urinetown, Ziegfeld's Midnight Frolic, Dora the Explorer Live, Busker Alley, and The New York Tenors at Carneaie Hall. He has performed in Concerts and Recordings at the Lincoln Center, Hollywood Bowl, New York City Center. Library of Congress, PBS, and NPR. Aaron's upcoming projects include Romeo & Bernadette (Off Broadway). Just Jim Dale (PBS), and a new Vincent Youmans biography. He is looking forward to serving as the Resident Pops Conductor for South Shore Symphony. Thanks to Noah and Sydney for this opportunity!



BRYN FRISINA, Elinor Dashwood, fell in love with acting at a young age because of her experiences with local theatre groups like Debut Theatre

Company and Fort Collins Children's Theatre. She has a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University, where she also studied abroad for a semester at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. After graduating, Bryn moved to New York City to pursue a career in the arts and worked on several off and off-off Broadway productions as an actress, director, playwright and/or producer. Her proudest moment was having one of her original plays produced off-Broadway through the Araca Project. After more than a decade on the East Coast, Bryn and her husband are thrilled to be back in Colorado. She is honored to be spending this next chapter of her theatre life with OpenStage and would like to thank Andrew, Owen, Mom. Dad. Kaia, Stefan, and Jennifer, along with the rest of her family and friends for a lifetime of support and love.



BRIKAI CORDOVA, Marianne
Dashwood, is a musical theater graduate from the University of Wyoming, and she made her OpenStage Theatre debut as Suzette in Don't

Dress for Dinner, for which she received an OpenStage OPUS nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Leading Role. Most recently, she appeared onstage as Maid Marion in Sherwood, Vicki in The Full Monty, Hero in Much Ado About Nothing, Vera Claythorne in And Then There Were None (OPUS/Outstanding Actress), and in the ensemble for Monty Python's Spamalot. Some of her previous roles include Hope Caldwell

in *Urinetown*, Simone in *Rainy Day People*, Queen Badassery in *Angry Psycho Princess*, and Maxine in *Night of the Iguana*. She would like to thank her parents, Ron and Lauren, the cast and crew, the best friends a girl could ask for (Jenna, Jamie, Colleen, Abbie, Kellie, Lilly, Sean, Walter, Lucky, Allison, Marisa, Ana), and the best boss a girl can ask for, Chris—she is so grateful for you all. Brikai looks forward to her future with this amazing Company and much more creativity to come!



ESTHER
GOLDMAN, Mrs.
Dashwood/Anne
Steele/Gossip,
is a native of
Chicago, Illinois
and has been
acting in plays
since age 5. Roles
at OpenStage
include Scrooge/

Buddy the Elf/Ensemble in *Christmas Chaos* and Nell in *Comedy of Errors*. Her performances with Bas Bleu Readers' Theater include *On The Verge, Crimes of The Heart, Under Milkwood* and *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Esther thanks everyone involved in this production for the opportunity to live in the world of Jane Austen. A special thanks to Esther's family for their continued love and support, and to you, the audience, for supporting live theater and keeping local art alive during these unprecedented times!





KELBY JAKOBER, Margaret Dashwood/Mrs. Ferrars/Gossip, serves as the Social Media/ Administrative Assistant for OpenStage and is thrilled to make

her onstage debut with the company in Sense and Sensibility. Kelby is a senior theatre major at Colorado State University, where she recently performed as Antigone in These Seven Sicknesses, Theresa Bedell in Boy Gets Girl, Peaseblossom in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Eleanor in Big Love. She would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support!



BRUCE GAMMONLEY, John Willoughby/ John Dashwood/ Gossip, was born in Fort Collins with a raging passion for the arts. The role that began his acting career

in fifth grade was that of a Druid in Traut Core Knowledge Elementary's production of *Reach for the Stars*. Since then, he has hopefully gotten a little better at acting, although that may be up for debate. Bruce graduated from CSU in 2019 with a degree in Theatre Performance and a minor in History. While attending CSU, he performed as Alan in *God of Carnage* and Mr. Cladwell in *Urinetown*. Post-graduation, he has worked with Bas Bleu Theatre in *Harvey* and the world premiere of *Free Laughter*. This is his first show with

OpenStage and he could not be more excited to work with such a great group of people! Outside of acting, Bruce enjoys entomology and getting out in nature. Visit brucedavisofficial.com to keep up with his current projects!



KIERNAN ANGLEY, Edward/Robert Ferrars/Servant/ Gossip, enjoys playing dress-up ever so much, and so far, no one has had the heart to tell them to stop. They have been

performing in the Northern Colorado area since moving to Fort Collins and attending Colorado State University well over a decade ago. Kiernan earned a bachelor's degree with a minor in theatre from CSU and studied briefly in London. which furthered their passion for the arts. In October 2020 they devised, directed, and produced an immersive theatrical experience in partnership with the Lyric Cinema and in collaboration with local artists. On stage, Kiernan received OpenStage OPUS Award nominations for Outstanding Actor, portraying Romeo in Romeo and Juliet and Jake in H2O; they also won Outstanding Supporting Actor in the musical Spamalot. Other notable performances include Ray Rawlings in the world premiere of *Hide Sky* with Bas Bleu Theatre and Pale in PopUp Theatre's Burn This. When not creating on stage or screen, Kiernan enjoys crafting fantastical narratives for friends and family through tabletop roleplaying games and, just in general, loves helping people escape to another world for a while



MOLLY MCGUIRE, Fanny Dashwood/ Lucy Steele/Lady Middleton/Gossip, first performed with OpenStage Theatre in 2004 in The Women. She began performing with the Company

again in 2014, when she appeared as Nerine in Scapin. Since then she has appeared with OpenStage as Beatrice in The Servant of Two Masters, Millicent/ Laurie in Stage Kiss, Danielle in Ultimate Beauty Bible, Suzanne in Don't Dress for Dinner, in the Ensemble of Christmas Chaos, Dromio of Syracuse in The Comedy of Errors, and Conrade in Much Ado About Nothing. Her most recent role was as Angela in Natural Shocks (OpenStage's first streaming production) in 2021. She is excited to be working with the amazing cast of Sense and Sensibility and would like to thank the entire cast, staff, and crew for their unwavering support. Also, Molly would like to take this opportunity to give her heartfelt thanks to her OpenStage family. Their support and love has helped her immensely this last year.



DAN TSCHIRHART, Col. Brandon/ Thomas/Gossip, is a graduate of Colorado State University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. He received a

2017 Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Award nomination for his role as Sam in OpenStage's *The Flick*. Dan has

appeared with OpenStage in Murder on the Orient Express, Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood, Much Ado About Nothing, Avenue Q, And Then There Were None, Spamalot, Pride and Prejudice, Splitting Infinity, The One-Eyed Man Is King, The Ladies Man, Noises Off, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Seafarer (OpenStage OPUS Award/Outstanding Actor in a Supporting Role), The Tempest, Spring Awakening, Unnecessary Farce, Romeo and Juliet, and Stage Kiss. Other memorable performances include Almost Maine, 1940's Radio Christmas Carol. The Lion in Winter, and Our Town with Bas Bleu Theatre and A Midsummer Night's Dream, Scapin, and The Beckett Project at CSU. Dan is a member of the local improv group, Comedy Brewers, which performs regularly at Bas Bleu Theatre.



L. MICHAEL SCOVEL, Mrs. Jennings/Gossip, has been acting for 46 years, having played nearly 70 different roles. Locally, he has performed with OpenStage

Theatre, Bas Bleu Theatre, Fort Collins Children's Theatre, Opera Fort Collins, and Canyon Concert Ballet, among others. Lenny was last seen in OpenStage etcetera's production of *The Mystery of Love and Sex*. Past notable roles include Willy Wonka, Rasputin, George Banks (*Mary Poppins*) and Roy (*Looking For Normal*). When not on-stage, he can often be found either out on his road bike or in his gaming vault playing strategy games. Lenny is a



professional woodworker by trade and is also a certified Life-Cycle® Celebrant, creating and officiating life's significant rites of passage.



SYDNEY PARKS
SMITH, Sir John
Middleton/
Doctor/Servant/
Gossip, has
worked with
OpenStage
Theatre since
1997 and serves as
Producing Artistic

Director for the Company. She received the 2019 OpenStage OPUS Award for Outstanding Director for Avenue Q, the OPUS for Outstanding Actress for her role as M'Lynn in Steel Magnolias, the 2018 OPUS for Outstanding Director for And Then There Were None, and the 2017 Colorado Theatre Guild's Henry Award, and a True West Award in addition to the OPUS Award for Outstanding Actress for her role as Barbara in August: Osage County. Other recent roles include Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing and Antipholus of Ephesus in The Comedy of Errors: other recent directing credits include Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood, Every Brilliant Thing, and The Flick. Sydney has designed hair for several productions and received OPUS Awards for her designs for Macbeth and The Tempest. She also received the 2016 Founders' Award for her outstanding contributions to the company. Sydney would like to thank Harry, Rex and Gus, and her mom. They know why.



VICTOR WALTERS, Musician, is so excited to officially make his official OpenStage Theatre debut with Sense and Sensibility. Victor has worked behind the scenes as rehearsal/

audition pianist for past productions with OpenStage. You last saw him as the music director/conductor for The University of Northern Colorado's mainstage Fall production of RENT. He has performed as a collaborative/ rehearsal pianist, keyboardist, and music director all over the Northern Colorado Region. Additionally, he has worked for the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley Stampede Troupe, Fort Collins Children's Theatre, Opera Fort Collins, the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Midtown Arts Center, the Theatre Company of Lafayette, Jesters Dinner Theatre, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, and countless high school productions in the Northern Colorado area. Victor's credits include: A Grand Night For Singing, A Chorus Line, Shrek The Musical, Pippin, Into the Woods, My Fair Lady, Dames at Sea, The Roy Orbison Experience, Heart of the Holiday, The Music Man, Kiss Me Kate!, Beauty and the Beast, Man of La Mancha, Dogfight, Little Shops of Horrors, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Legally Blonde, Forever Plaid, 42nd Street, The Addams Family, and Big Fish.



JEFF JESMER, Scenic Designer/ Master Carpenter, is extremely happy to be working with OpenStage Theatre on this amazing production. Jeff is an Actor, Set Designer and

Set Builder who works primarily in the Denver metro area. He would like to thank all the production staff and volunteers for making it all happen! Jeff would also like to thank you, the audience, for supporting live theatre. Thank you! He also needs you to know, he'd be nothing without the support of his wife, Julie, and their loving fur babies!



ELISE KULOVANY, Costume Designer/Head Seamstress, is a Fort Collins native who is so thrilled to be back in town doing what she loves. After receiving a B.S. in

Theatre Education from the University of Evansville, Elise continued on to receive her M.F.A. in Costume Design from Southern Illinois University. She then served as a Cutter/Draper and Costume Shop Manager at the Arkansas Repertory Theater and has also worked in various roles at Santa Fe Opera, Los Rios Community College, and Cedar Point. Selected design credits include Ragtime, For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf, RENT, and Radio Golf. Elise now serves as the Costume Shop Manager at

Colorado State University for the School of Music, Theater, and Dance, where she mentors and teaches students while managing a shop that creates tentwelve realized shows each year. She couldn't do what she does without the support of her amazing family, loving husband, and naughty doggos.



JAN BUECHER, Properties Designer/Set Dresser, found her passion for theatre in the late 90's with the Stampede Troupe's production of Wait until Dark in

Greeley, CO. From there, she went on to manage the prop shop and design for UNC's Little Theatre of the Rockies. Additionally, she has designed for Candlelight Dinner Theatre and Bas Bleu. Moving to Fort Collins offered her opportunities to design multiple productions for OpenStage. She was awarded the OpenStage OPUS for The Rocky Horror Show and Rent for Outstanding Properties Design. Jan says that OpenStage has become a family to her of irresistible characters, and she looks forward to more productions with them.



BRIAN MILLER, Lighting Designer, is designing lighting for his 11th production with OpenStage Theatre, having first designed for the company's production of



Amadeus in 2013 (Best Lighting Design - Broadway World/Denver). Other OpenStage lighting designs include Journey to the West and Outside Mullingar (2016 Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Nomination for Lighting Design), La Bête. The Crucible (2018 Henry Award and OpenStage OPUS Award for Lighting Design), Frankenstein (2019 Henry Nomination and OPUS Award for Lighting Design), and The Full Monty. He has designed scenery and lighting at Bas Bleu Theatre for seventeen productions since 2007 and was awarded the 2019 Henry Award for Scenic Design for The Waverly Gallery. For Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, he designed lighting for The Music Man in 2017 as well as Nunsense and Motones Vs. Jerseys in 2019. A graduate of Cornell University and New York University, Brian has designed more than 300 productions since settling in Colorado in 1998. He is a certified AACT Theater Adjudicator and serves on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Theatre Guild, Website: www.brianmiller.biz



MASON DILL, Sound Designer, is excited to make his OpenStage debut with this production. Mason recently graduated Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Arts in

Sound Design. He loves to use sound as a way to bring you into the world of the play and hopes you feel pulled in when experiencing *Sense and Sensibility*.



DAVID WALTERS, Sound Engineer, is thrilled to be making his OpenStage debut and is so glad you're here. David is a sophomore at Colorado State University studying

Theatre, Design and Technology, with an emphasis in Sound Design. He has been involved in five shows at the Lake Dillon Theatre Company in Silverthorne and eighteen shows at Colorado State University. In fact, David is the sound designer for CSU's upcoming production of *The Rocky Horror Show* and hopes to see you there. He couldn't do what he does without the love and support of his friends and most importantly, his partner Lorna.



CARLY
ACKERMAN,
Hair & Wig
Designer, grew
up in Fort Collins
and has been a
professional hair
artist for over a
decade. She works
locally at The

Parlour. She has been teaching her craft for 7 years with The Parlour and Unite Haircare. Carly's work has been featured in many bridal publications including The Knot. She loves all aspects of her job but the styling of hair is her favorite. Sense and Sensibility marks her first foray into stage production.



VICTORIA
VILLALOBOS,
Make-up
Designer, has
loved theatre
since she was a
child. She acted,
sang and danced
in a number of
productions,

including The Wizard of Oz, The Pink Panther, and M\*A\*S\*H while in high school. She has worked extensively with OpenStage Theatre as a Sound Designer and Engineer, Makeup and Hair Designer and Stylist, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Board Operator, Stagehand, and Dresser. Victoria also has worked with Fort Collins Children's Theatre for the past 5 years, most recently as the Makeup Designer and Stylist for James and the Giant Peach and The Little Mermaid. Next on the list, she will be designing for FCCT's production of Elf. In addition, she has worked with companies such as Opera Fort Collins, the Chevenne Little Theatre Players, and Pop Up Theatre. Victoria received her associate degree from Front Range Community College, where she was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the President's List, both for her academic achievements. Victoria wishes to thank her family and friends for all their love and support!



JAMES BURNS, Scenic Painter/ Stage Violence Advisor, graduated from CSU with a degree in Theatre Arts in 1997. He worked at the

Arvada Center during the 2000, 2001, and 2002 seasons as a scenic painter and technician before moving to New York City. He stage managed On Love and Lies and Square One at the 2004 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and Box of Fools for the 2005 American Living Room Festival in NYC. Since moving back to Fort Collins in 2010. James has worked extensively with both OpenStage Theatre and Bas Bleu as an actor, fight choreographer, and scenic artist. He appeared onstage most recently as Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing, Phillip Lombard in And Then There Were None. Steve Heidebrecht in August: Osage County, Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew. The Husband in Stage Kiss. Austin in True West, and Sharky in The Seafarer, all with OpenStage Theatre. In addition, James co-directed Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood, OpenStage etcetera's productions of Fool for Love and Christmas Chaos. He sends thanks. to his wife, Jessica, and love to his daughters, Scarlett and Sterling.



AUBREY
STALNAKER,
Assistant Director/
Stage Manager,
is thrilled to be
joining OpenStage
for a 9th season!
She has been
stage managing
for over 15 years

and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Stage Management from the University of Oklahoma. Previous OpenStage Assistant Director/Stage Manager credits include *Tiny Beautiful Things, The Full Monty, Frankenstein, Spamalot, August: Osage County,* 



The North Plan, Spring Awakening, Journey to the West, The Tempest, and Dangerous Liaisons. She received the 2015 OpenStage OPUS Award for Outstanding Technical Support for the Season. Other Fort Collins Assistant Director/Stage Manager credits include Harvey, Equus, The Blue Flower, A Tuna Christmas, Juno and the Paycock, Our Town, The Year of Magical Thinking, Ghosts, and Rabbit Hole with Bas Bleu Theatre Company. Aubrey feels truly blessed to be able to work with OpenStage and to be a part of this amazing Fort Collins theatre community. She would like to thank her incredibly supportive boyfriend, friends, and parents who always understand when she says, "Sorry I can't, I have rehearsal." She loves you guys!



AKOLOTU MOELOA, Assistant Director/ Floor Manager, is a new member of OpenStage. His most recent performances were with Fort Collins Children's

Theatre in James and the Giant Peach and Disney's The Little Mermaid. When he's not on stage, Lotu is an IT Specialist with the USDA and is an avid board gamer and homebrewer. He has two teenagers who always come to see his shows and he's grateful to be able to share new stories and the magic of theater with them.



ALANA EISEMANN, Floor Manager, is fairly new to the theatre world and is loving getting to explore her passion with OpenStage. She grew up in Colorado and attended Front

Range Community College where she was a part of a few productions. She made her foray into OpenStage with the productions of *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* and *The Full Monty.* When she is not in the theater, she can be found buried in a book or hiking around the Northern Colorado area



JUDITH ALLEN, Production Manager, served for over two decades as the Associate Artistic Director for OpenStage Theatre and is an award winning director, actress and

designer. She most recently appeared as Clairee in OpenStage's Steel Magnolias and is a recent recipient of the BroadwayWorld (Denver Region) nod for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Mattie Fae Aiken in August: Osage County. Judi was the first recipient of the Shela Jennings Award for Theatre Excellence (OpenStage, 2017) and has directed OpenStage productions of Noises Off (OpenStage OPUS Award/Best Play and Best Director and Denver Post Ovation nominee/Best Comedy), The Drawer Boy (OPUS/Best Play and

Best Director), and Romeo and Juliet (OPUS/Best Director). Other favorite roles with OpenStage have been Chris in Neil Simon's Rumors (OPUS nominee and Denver Post Ovation Award/Best Supporting Actress) and the Nurse in the 2014 production of Romeo and Juliet (OPUS/Best Actress). Judi is also an award-winning makeup artist and the 2001 recipient of the OpenStage Founders' Award for outstanding contributions to the company.



CALEB GILBERT, Technical
Director, is a Fort
Collins native and
happy to be back
home where he
belongs. He's
excited for many
years to come
with OpenStage

both onstage and behind the scenes. When he's not slinging comic books, he can be found slinging a hammer in the Backstage Warehouse.

BRUCE and DENISE FREESTONE,

Founders, founded OpenStage Theatre in 1973 and have provided leadership to both the Company and to the development of the arts in Northern Colorado for the past 48 years. The Freestones have passed the Theatre's primary leadership to Producing Artistic Director Sydney Parks Smith, while still remaining involved in the theatre's productions, operations, and strategic planning. Both Bruce and Denise have extensive experience as actors. directors, producers, and designers; they have garnered regional awards and recognition for both themselves and the theatre, including the Governor's Award

for Excellence in the Arts and the Tree of Peace Medallion, which signifies a lifetime of contributions to the Arts and Culture Industry.





#### THE PLAYWRIGHT: KATE HAMILL

Originally from the farms and fields of upstate New York, Kate Hamill is an award-winning NYC-based actor/playwright.

She is deeply passionate about creating new feminist, femalecentered classics, both in new plays and in adaptation: stories that center around complicated women. Her work as a playwright celebrates theatricality, often features absurdity, and closely examines social and gender issues—as well as the timeless struggle



to reconcile conscience / identity with social pressures. As an actor, she tends to play truth-tellers, oddballs, and misfits: complicated people who color outside the lines.

Kate was named 2017's Playwright of the Year by the Wall Street Journal. She has been one of the 10 most-produced playwrights in the country, three seasons running (2017-2020); in both 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, she wrote two of the top 10 most produced plays in the U.S., and many of her plays have been produced internationally.

She is currently working on an adaptation of *The Odyssey* (commissioned by A.R.T.) as well as several new original plays—including *Love Poem, In The Mines* (Sundance Semi-Finalist; now collaborating with The Bengsons on this piece), *Em* (Red Bull New Play finalist), *the Prostitute Play* (O'Neill Semi-Finalist), and *The Piper* (O'Neill Finalist, PlayPenn Haas Fellow play). Kate is also a screenwriter and has a film in development at the moment... stay tuned. (Information gathered from: http://www.kate-hamill.com/about).

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



Jane Austen (1775–1817) once advised that a writer should write only about settings in which she herself would feel comfortable and welcome. All of her six major novels are set in the country homes and cottages of the lower gentry (of these, four were published during Austen's lifetime—Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814) and Emma (1816)—Northanger Abbey, Persuasion, and the unfinished Sanditon would all be published posthumously). Austen herself

was a member of this comfortable class, her father, George, being an Anglican parish priest educated at Oxford. Like many girls of her station, Austen went to school, but after age eleven she finished her schooling at home under the tutelage of her father, learning French, some Italian, and piano. Around age twelve she began writing short stories to amuse her family.

In 1795, at the age of twenty, she began writing more substantial works, including an epistolary novel called *Elinor and Marianne*. In 1797, her father attempted to have another of her novels, *First Impressions*, published. It was rejected, but she pressed on, continuing to revise Elinor and Marianne. Around 1800, her father decided to retire, and with their income somewhat reduced, the Austens moved to Bath in Somerset. There, Austen turned *Elinor and Marianne* into *Sense and Sensibility*.

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Directed and Adapted by Judith Allen

Performing June 25-July 23, 2022

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