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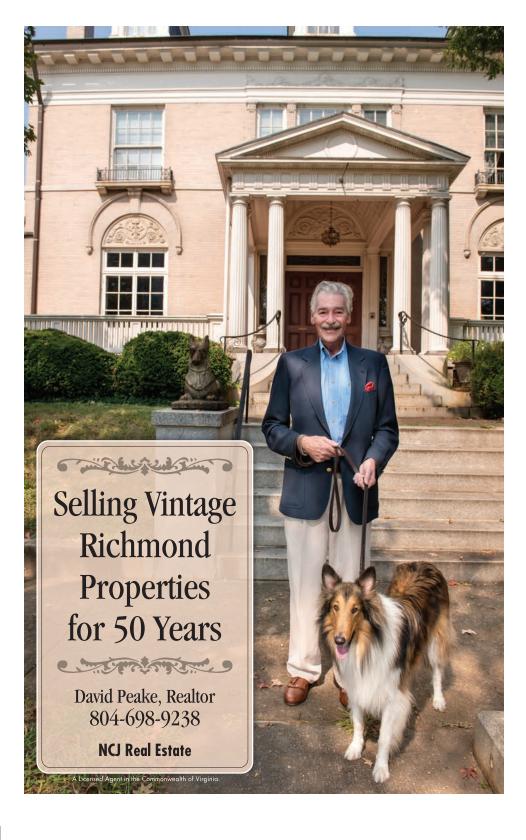
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Torch Song was initially produced by Second Stage Theater in New York, October 2017, and then in November 2018 at the Helen Hayes Theater on Broadway by Richie Jackson, Eric Kuhn & Justin Mikita, Stephanie P. McClelland, Ken Fakler, David Mirvish, Lassen Blume/Karmen Boyz Productions, CJC & Priest/Judith Ann Abrams, Burnt Umber/True Love Productions, Caiola Productions/Torchbearers and Jujamcyn Theaters, Second Stage Theater.

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## THE HISTORY OF TORCH SONG

Until Harvey Fierstein changed the tenor of queer theatre in 1982 with the Broadway debut of *Torch Song Trilogy*, gay figures in media never were able to explore the complexities that showed them as real humans who could lead joyful and fulfilling lives. Considered Fierstein's most personal play, his effervescent and fiery nature is embodied through his main character, Arnold, who simply wants to love and be loved. Fierstein's own stated goals for the play are remarkably simple and straightforward: "There are no answers forthcoming. But you might just catch a line, like an old familiar half-heard song playing on a jukebox, that reaches out and touches something going on inside of you. And for that instant you are relieved of the isolation. That is the worth of a torch song."

The 1982 production won Fierstein his first two Tony's, for Best Play and Best Actor. This kind of notoriety for a gay man was unprecedented and set a new standard for appreciating queer stories. In 2017 a significantly revised version of the play, cut down by Fierstein from its original three acts to two and retitled *Torch Song* opened Off-Broadway with Michael Urie as Arnold and Mercedes Ruehl as Mrs. Beckoff. Directed by Moises Kaufman, the production transferred to Broadway shortly after in 2018. Both iterations of the play addressed the intersectionality of Jewish and queer identities, rejecting the stereotypes associated with each group and highlighting Jewish melancholic humor with homosexual flamboyant humor.

In his 2022 memoir, *I Was Better Last Night*, Fierstein said the following about the 2018 Broadway produciton of *Torch Song*, *"Torch Song* was no longer something to look at from a safe distance and wonder if it could ever come to be. It *has* come to be. It's no longer something you live with. The play's become a history, a personal diary, a testament to point to when you want someone to understand your life. It's proof of our struggle and a road map for how we got here."

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## TORCH SONG CAST



LUCIAN RESTIVO Arnold



DEBRA CLINTON Mrs. Beckoff



AXLE BURTNESS Ed



LIAM STORM David





ZACH BARNARD Alan





Understudies only appear when an announcement is made prior to the performance.



KEEGAN FERRELL U/S Arnold



SARA HEIFETZ U/S Mrs. Beckoff



BILLY HECKMAN U/S David & Alan



THERESA MANTIPLY U/S Laurel



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#### SETTING AND TIME

#### ACT ONE

The International Stud, June 1974 Fugue in a Nursery, Summer 1975

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

#### ACT TWO

Widows and Children First, June 1980

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#### FOR THIS **PRODUCTION**

Assistant Stage Manager	Nora Ogunleye
Assistant Lighting Designer	Gabriel Beard
Intimacy Coordinator	Hannah Sikora
Dialect Coach	Erica Hughes
Dramaturg	Kendall Walker
Gender Consultant	August Hundley
Technical Director	Chris Foote
Scenic Artist	Becka Russo
Mural Artist	Liz Lundberg
Master Electrician	Michael Jarett
Electricians	Gabriel Beard, Nat Lurie
Dresser	Brenden Bowman
Backstage Crew	. Sterling Barbett, Christopher Smith

#### MEET THE **PLAYWRIGHT**



**HARVEY FIERSTEIN** is the author of the Tony-winning hit, *Kinky* Boots, as well as Torch Song Trilogy (Tony, Drama Desk and Obie Awards), *La Cage aux Folles* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards), *Newsies* (Tony nominated), *Casa Valentina* (Tony nominated), *A Catered Affair* (12 Drama Desk nominations), *Safe Sex* (Ace Award), *Legs Diamond*, *Spookhouse*, *Flatbush Tosca*, *Common Ground* and more. He has recently rewritten The Wiz for live TV broadcast, and penned a revised

book for Funny Girl, currently touring the country. His political editorials have been published in the New York Times, TV Guide and the Huffington Post and broadcast on PBS's "In the Life." His children's book, *The Sissy Duckling* (Humanitas Award), is now in its fifth printing. As an actor, Mr. Fierstein is known worldwide for his performances in films including *Mrs. Doubtfire, Independence Day,* and *Bullets Over Broadway,* on stage in *Hairspray* (Tony Award), *Fiddler on the Roof, La Cage aux Folles, Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony Award), and on TV shows such as "Smash," "How I Met Your Mother," "The Good Wife," "Cheers" (Emmy nomination), "The Simpsons," "Family Guy," and "Nurse Jackie."



## MEET THE CAST

LUCIAN RESTIVO, he/him (Arnold) See biography under RTP Leadership.

**DEBRA CLINTON**, *she/her* (**Mrs. Beckoff**) is grateful to return to Richmond Triangle Players where she has been fortunate enough to direct two of her favorite musicals: *Grey Gardens* and *Falsettos*. Debra is a long standing member of the Richmond theatre community and has had the opportunity to contribute artistically to many local companies. This year marks her 17th anniversary as producing artistic director of the Jewish Family Theatre at the Weinstein JCC and her eighth year as a teacher in Hanover County. Debra is inspired daily by her students who share her passion for theatre, and by her family who remain her number one production. Thank you for coming out and supporting live theatre!

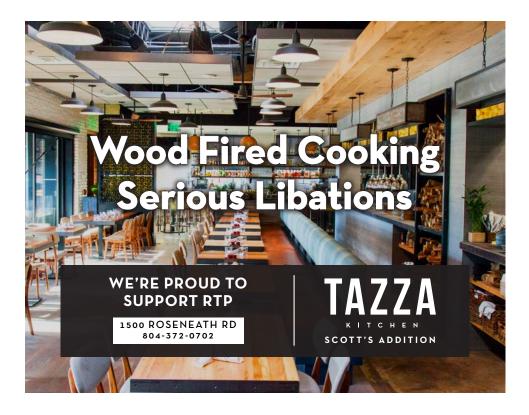
**AXLE BURTNESS**, he/him (Ed) is so grateful for the chance to finally grace the Richmond Triangle Players stage. As if to immediately top that statement, he takes immense pride in the opportunity to bring Ed Reiss to life. The cast and crew behind this effort deserve the utmost recognition and appreciation. A professional actor and director hailing from Big Stone Gap, VA, Axle has spent the last 13 years creating and collaborating with fellow artists in Richmond and DC. Recent onstage credits include: *Gaslight* (Mr. Manningham) at Swift Creek Mill (RTCC Winner for Best Supporting Actor in a Play), *Straight White Men* (Jake) at TheatreLab, *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Darcy) at Quill Theatre, and *Our Town* (George Gibbs) at WhistleStop Theatre. Richmond directing credits include *The Things That Haunt Us* with Strangeways Brewery, *Joe and Stew's Theatre and The Gift of Gab* with the Kaye Dance Festival, and the 2022 revival of *Christmas on the Rocks* at Richmond Triangle Players. Axle sends love to his family, his Pompsky, Lykota, and his magical wife, Irene, who shows the power of patience and love every single day.

**LIAM STORM**, *he/him* (**David**) is thrilled to be making his RTP debut with such an incredible cast and crew! Liam is an actor, dancer, and choreographer who received his BFA in Theatre from VCU. Previous credits include Nephew Fred in A Christmas Carol at Stage Door Productions, Shallow in The Merry Wives of Windsor at Richmond Shakespeare, Powell in Men on Boats at TheatreVCU and Alfred in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead at Richmond Shakespeare. He has also performed at a plethora of theme parks across the East Coast. Some of his choreography credits include choreographing at Stagedoor Manor in New York, choreographing She Persisted at VA Rep's Children's Entertainment, as well as several Richmond Drag Queens' performances. He is so grateful for this opportunity and thanks his friends and family for their support!

**EMILY BERRY**, *she/they* **(Laurel)** has previously been seen at Richmond Triangle Players in A Christmas Kaddish (Leigh) - RTCC Nomination, Best Supporting Performance in a Musical, as well as understudying Log Cabin, Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties, and the 2022 production of The Rocky Horror Show. Other Richmond credits include Comedy of Errors (Dromio of Ephesus) - RTCC Nomination, Best Supporting Performance in a Play, Twelfth Night (Viola) - RTCC Nomination, Best Lead Performance in a Play, The Bottom Show (Puck/Philostrate), and The Taming of the Shrew (Grumio) with Richmond Shakespeare. A former company member with Synetic Theater in Washington, D.C., Emily appeared in productions of Hamlet, the rest is silence..., The Three Musketeers, and an international tour of A Midsummer Night's Dream.



#### **ONSTAGE AT THE VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL**



#### MEET THE CAST

**ZACH BARNARD**, *he/him* (Alan) is a local fine artist headquartered right in the fan district. After 10 years since his last straight play, Zach is thrilled to be a part of this moving production of *Torch Song*. He received his Minor in theatre and his BFA in Fine Art at Columbia College Chicago and is happy to be back in his hometown of Richmond, where he spends his time building his small business Zach Barnard Art and singing karaoke with friends. His most recent roles include Sky in *Mamma Mia!*, Ensemble in *Head Over Heels*, Phantom in *Rocky Horror: Cover to Cover* (2022) and *Rocky Horror: The Concert* (2023). Zach is excited to be back at RTP and thanks the wonderful support from friends and family both in his fine art and acting achievements.

**KEEGAN FERRELL**, *he/they* **(U/S Arnold)** is delighted to be working with Richmond Triangle Players once again! His past credits with RTP include their productions of *The Rocky Horror Show* (Assistant Director, Swing) and *The Inheritance* (Young Man 5, U/S Young Man 1, U/S Toby Darling) and was most recently in Richmond Shakes' *Hamlet* (Voltimand, Osric, Player, U/S Guildenstern) and VCUarts Theatre's *Rent* (Restaurant Man). Having just graduated with a BFA in Performance, Keegan is learning a lot and having a blast in the professional world of theatre, whether it's onstage or backstage!

SARA HEIFTEZ, she/her (U/S Mrs. Beckoff) recently appeared in The Comedy of Errors (Luce, Aemelia) and All's Well That Ends Well (Duke, Widow) with Richmond Shakespeare; Admissions (Ginnie) with TheatreLAB; Broadway Bound (Blanche), The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time (Mrs. Shears, Ms. Gascoyne), Brighton Beach Memoirs (Blanche) [RTCC nominee for Best Ensemble], The House at Pooh Corner (Kanga), and The Velveteen Rabbit (Nana) with Virginia Rep; The Heir Apparent (Lisette) with Quill Theatre; Body Awareness (Phyllis) with Richmond Triangle Players/5th Wall Theatre; Rapture, Blister Burn (Gwen), The Human Terrain (Adiliah) [RTCC Awards for Best Supporting Actress and Best Play] and The Lyons (Lisa) [RTCC nominee for Best Play] with 5th Wall Theatre; and Inconsolable (mother) at Firehouse Theatre Project. Favorite Richmond credits include The Laramie Project (Romaine Patterson, Zubaida Ula, etc.) with Virginia Rep/RTP; bash... latterday plays (Sue, Woman) and suBurbia (Sooze) at Virginia Rep's Theatre Gym; Edmond (Glenna), and Buried Child (Halie) at Firehouse Theatre Project; and Stop Kiss (Callie) at Richmond Triangle Players [Phoebe Award for Best Actress]. Sara holds a BFA in Acting from TheatreVCU and studied at the Oxford School of Drama (Oxford, England), the Atlantic School (NYC), and Upright Citizen's Brigade (NYC).

**BILLY HECKMAN**, he/him **(U/S David & Alan)** is very happy to be making his RTP debut with *Torch Song*! Recent performance credits include: Link in *Hairspray* (Homefront Players), Ensemble in *Something Rotten*! (Dogwood Dell), and Freddie/Philip in *Noises Off* (VCUarts Undergraduate Research Grant). Billy would like to thank his loved ones for their incredible support and the cast/crew for welcoming him with open arms.

**THERESA MANTIPLY**, *she/her* **(U/S Laurel)** is so excited to be back at Richmond Triangle Players stage. She appeared in *Log Cabin* and *Christmas on the Rocks*, last season. Other previous credits include: *Private Lives* at CAT and Alice in *Closer* at TheatreLAB.



## MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**GARY C. HOPPER**, *he/him* (Director) was an Associate Professor of Theatre at the School of the Arts at VCU where he served as Assistant Chair of the theater department as well as Chair of the undergraduate acting curriculum. Professionally he has directed a myriad of productions at many theatres including Company of Fools in Hailey, ID; Theatre VCU; Theatre IV; Barksdale Theatre; The Production Company; Firehouse; the University of Richmond; James River Chamber Opera; Richmond Shakespeare; Cadence Theatre; Henley Street; and Virginia Rep. Some of his most memorable productions include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Assassins, August Snow, Boatwright, Christmas on Mars, 4000 Miles, Hamlet, Lloyd's Prayer, Marat/Sade, Mr. Dickens' Christmas Carol, Of Mice and Men, Prelude to a Kiss, Red Noses, The Aliens, Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down, and Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike.

DANIEL ALLEN, he/him (Scenic Design) is VA raised, Manhattan based. Announced upcoming designs include: Play That Goes Wrong & The Spongebob Musical (Cocoa Village Playhouse). Recent selected designs include: Lonely Planet (5th Wall & Firehouse Theatre), The Addams Family (Cape Fear Regional Theatre), Men On Boats (Pittsburgh Playhouse), Everybody (UARTS), Sister Act, The Drowsy Chaperone, Steel Magnolias, Something Rotten, West Side Story, Newsies, Little Women, Into The Woods (Cocoa Village Playhouse), The Cherry Orchard, The Connection, The Divine Contradiction (The New School). Selected Assistant credits include: Chicken & Biscuits (Circle in the Square, Original Broadway production), Hadestown (Seoul, Korea), Fires In The Mirror (Signature Theater Off-Broadway) Behind The Sheet (Ensemble Studio Theater, Off-Broadway), Everybody (Shakespeare Theater Co.), GLORIA (American Conservatory Theatre), STEW (Page 73, Off-Broadway). Selected Associate Scenic Design credits include: His Story (Dallas Broadway Tent, Original production), Bulrusher (McCarter Theatre Center & Berkley Rep. Transfer), FAUST (WolfTrap Opera), 12th Night (The Old Globe), Sherlock Holmes... (Alley Theatre), Patience (2nd Stage Uptown) Appropriate & The Little Foxes (South Coast Rep.), Blues for an Alabama Sky (Guthrie & McCarter), Fairview (WILMA), The Last Supper (SOPAC), We Declare you a Terrorist, Its not a Trip it's a Journey (Roundhouse), Trouble in Mind (The Old Globe), Gem of the Ocean (Portland Center Stage), The West End (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), Queens Girl, Berta Berta (Everyman Theater), Christmas In Connecticut (Goodspeed Opera House), GIRLS (Yale Rep). Recent Scenic Art credits Include: Merry Wives (The Public, HBO MAX "Re-Opening Night"). Member USA Local 829 | Instagram: @danj.allen | Website: danielallendesign.com.

**CHRIS FOOTE**, *he/him* (**Technical Director**) is a freelance Technical Director based out of Richmond. His work has been featured on stages across the country and national television. He is a frequent collaborator with the experimental group DOG STUFF (NYC). Selected TD Credits include: Log Cabin (RTP); Day of Absence, Klytmnestra, Blood at the Root (Theatre Alliance); One in Four, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (DOG STUFF); Straight White Men, The Niceties (TheatreLab); and Stupid F\*#%ing Bird (Quill Theatre).

**ERICA HUGHES**, *she/her* (Dialect Coach) is a Visiting Lecturer and Production Manager for the University of Richmond Department of Theatre & Dance, as well as a private voice/ dialect/text coach and a performer. In Richmond, she has had the privilege of working with just about every professional and higher ed theatre establishment. Some of the other institutions Erica has coached for include: the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Chicago Pride Films & Plays, Round House Theatre and Olney Theatre Center, Carnegie Mellon University, and the National Speech & Debate Association. Erica has an M.F.A. in Theatre Pedagogy/Stage Voice & Speech from VCU.



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## MEET THE **PRODUCTION TEAM**

**AUGUST HUNDLEY**, *he/they* (**Gender Consultant**) is thrilled to be back at RTP. They were last seen on stage as Charlie in *Scrooge In Rouge* and backstage as an ASM for *Head Over Heels*. They are a trained Gender Consultant on the East Coast, and have worked on *Head Over Heels*, *One in Two*, *Scrooge in Rouge*, and now *Torch Song* for RTP.

**MICHAEL JARETT**, *he/him* (Lighting Design) is thrilled to return to RTP where he has designed 32 productions including *One in Two*, *Head Over Heels* (RTCC Nomination), *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Inheritance* (RTCC Nomination), *4000 Days*, *The Cake*, *Falsettos*, *The Laramie Project* (RTCC Nomination), *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *A Chorus Line*, *The View UpStairs*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *The Boy from Oz* (RTCC Nomination), *Psycho Beach Party*, *YANK!*, *Angels in America* (RTCC Nomination), *Cabaret*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Musical of Musicals* (RTCC Nomination), and numerous cabaret acts including Charles Busch's *My Kinda 60s* and Eden Espinosa in *Clutch My Pearls*. He received RTCC Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design for his designs of *Urinetown*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Moth*. He received his MFA from Brandeis University and held the Hemsley Lighting Internship at Lincoln Center. Michael is currently a tenured Associate Professor for the Department of Dance at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (where he received the 2021 Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts) and tours as the TD for renowned Los Angeles-based dance company BODYTRAFFIC. www.michaeljarett.com

**LAUREN LANGSTON**, *she/her* (**Produciton Stage Manager**) is delighted to be back home for another season with RTP! When she's out of the booth she can be found dressed in vintage clothing, restoring lava lamps, playing DND, or hanging out with her two small dogs - Millie and Roddy. She thanks her husband Deven for all of his support especially during this show. She has been working on *Torch Song* during her third trimester with her first child.

WILLIAM LUTHER, he/they (Costume Design) See biography under RTP Leadership.

LUKE NEWSOME, he/him (Hair & Makeup Design) is always happy to help out RTP in any way that he can! Previous RTP design credits: Scrooge In Rouge, Head Over Heels, Christmas on the Rocks, The Inheritance, The Pink Unicorn, Vincent River (hair and makeup designer) and Molly House (costume, hair, and makeup designer) and Lazarus Syndrome (props designer). Performance credits include Scrooge In Rouge, The Rocky Horror Show, It Shoulda Been You, Time Square Angel, among many more! Luke is also a drag queen in the RVA nightlife scene, Wette Midler! She can be found on Instagram, @wettemidler. Enjoy the show!

**TIM MOEHRING**, *he/him* (**Props Design**) is a director, designer, special effects artist, and film festival award winning writer (*Last Call, Savor the Kill*). After graduating from VCU, he studied makeup and special effects with the artists in GWAR (Slave Pit Studios). Tim is also the co-founder of Aisthesis Productions, which creates in diverse mediums from feature films (*Last Call, Lights Camera Dead*), episodic series (*Robot Apocalypse*), puppetry (*Forever Young*) to the promotional videos for Richmond Triangle Players.

**NORA OGUNLEYE**, *she/they* (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be returning to the role of assistant stage manage on RTP's production of *Torch Song*! After a wonderful summer of ASMing *Head Over Heels*, Nora then went on to play Vesta Virile in RTP's rambunctious holiday production of *Scrooge In Rouge* which closed this past December. Nora was also seen on stage at Richmond Triangle Players in their production of *Log Cabin*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties*. Enjoy the show!

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## MEET THE **PRODUCTION TEAM**

**REBECKA RUSSO**, they/them (Scenic Artist) is excited to be home at RTP as scenic artist for Torch Song! They have served as Technical Director here at RTP on several productions including Sugar In Our Wounds, How Black Mothers Say I Love You, and Scrooge in Rouge. They recently appeared on stage in the understudy cast for Log Cabin here at RTP, student matinee performances of Hamlet with Richmond Shakes, as well as The Last Cyclist, Anything Goes, and Cabaret at the Weinstein JCC. This show holds a special place in their heart and they are thrilled to be part of the team.

**NICHOLAS SEAVER**, *he/him* (Sound Designer) is excited to be back at RTP! Nicholas graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2019 receiving a BFA in Technical Theater. Recent design credits include *One in Two* (Richmond Triangle Players), *Angry Raucous* and *Shamelessly Gorgeous* (VA Stage Company), Artsie Award Winning Sound Design *Fences* (Virginia Repertory Theatre), *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Macbeth* (TheatreVCU). He would like to thank his friends and family for all their love and support.

**HANNAH SIKORA**, *she/her* (Intimacy Coordinator) is an actor, director, producer, and creative consultant born and raised in Northern Virginia. After graduating from Pace University's BFA Acting program, she made a home in Brooklyn, NY as a working actor and creative. Since Covid-19, she has relocated to Richmond where she has created her live events and production company, Little Bird Productions. Past acting credits include: *Peter and the Starcatcher* (A.R.T. Gural Theatre), *Lysistrata* (3LD), *Medusa: Heart of Stone* (Winterfest at Hudson Guild), and *Funny as a Crutch* (59E59/ Edinburgh Fringe). She has been featured in commercial work with clients such as Door Dash, Capitol One, & Chegg Textbooks. Past directing credits include: *The F\*ck Am I Doing* (Asst. Dir., NYMF), *Whale* by Ali Keller (Asst. Dir., Strawberry Festival), and *Emily Rose Needs a Visa* (Assoc. Dir., The Tank NYC). She is thrilled to be intimacy directing this show with this wonderful cast. Play it with love.

**KENDALL WALKER**, *she/her* (**Dramaturg**) See biography under RTP Leadership.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Diversity Thrift & Diversity Richmond, SPARC, Kit Spata at Youphoria Studios, Godfrey's, Monica Moehring, Weinstein Jewish Community Center, Cindy & Ward Buckler

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#### RTP LEADERSHIP

PHILIP CROSBY, he/him (Executive Director) is in his second decade leading Richmond Triangle Players. He has spent over thirty-five years leading nonprofit arts organizations, including as a professional marketer, publicist, fundraiser and strategist for Cleveland's Great Lakes Theater Festival, Boston Shakespeare Festival, TheatreVirginia, and Richmond Ballet. During his career, he has had the great good fortune to work with some of the most celebrated names in theatre and film including Tom Hanks, Olympia Dukakis, Hal Holbrook, Alfred Drake, George Abbott, Ruby Dee, Graciela Daniele, and Gerald Freedman. He joined the Board of RTP in 2001 and became the company's first fulltime Managing Director in 2009. In concert with RTP's Board, artists, staff, patrons, and volunteers, he led this company's transformation from a small fringe theater into one of Richmond's most vital arts institutions and the cultural anchor of the revitalized Scott's Addition neighborhood. He holds a BS in Speech from Northwestern University. He was appointed by former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe to serve on the Commonwealth's first LGBTQ Tourism Task Force, has served on several advisory panels for the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and has been a member of Richmond Region Tourism's OutRVA Campaign since its inception. He is the current president of the RVA Theatre Alliance and serves on the board of the Scott's Addition Business Association. None of this would be possible without the love and support of his husband, David Ballas. This past October, he was honored by statewide advocacy organization, Equality Virginia as one of 2023's OUTstanding Virginians.

LUCIAN RESTIVO, he/him (Artistic Director) is a theatre professional in the Richmond area. He was a part of the Top 40 Under 40 Class of 2017. Most recent directing credits include 4000 Days, A Christmas Kaddish, Seven Homeless Mammoths... (2019 RTCC nomination for Best Play), The Laramie Project (2019 RTCC Best Direction, Best Ensemble Acting winner), The View UpStairs, The Inheritance (2023 RTCC Best Direction, Best Play winner; nomination for Achievement in Sound Design and Best Ensemble), and Head Over Heels with RTP (2023 RTCC nomination for Best Direction and Best Musical); Murder Ballad with 5th Wall Theatre. He has also assisted Justin Amellio in directing bare: a pop opera (2013 RTCC Best Musical winner), and The Boy from Oz with RTP. Favorite sound design credits include Act of God, Buyer and Cellar, and Corpus Christi with RTP; Dry Land (2017 RTCC nomination for Achievement in Sound Design) and Grand Concourse (2017 RTCC Best Play winner) with TheatreLAB. Favorite acting credits include Almost, Maine and The Little Lion (Joel) with Swift Creek Mill Theatre; The Lyons (Curtis) with 5th Wall Theatre; Dog Sees God (Beethoven) at the Firehouse Theatre Project; bare: a pop opera (Lucas), Psycho Beach Party (Yo-Yo), Corpus Christi (2017 RTCC nomination for Best Play and Best Ensemble Acting), The Normal Heart (2017 RTCC nomination for Best Play) with RTP. He has toured internationally with Missoula Children's Theatre and nationally with VA Rep. He is a proud dog dad to Leo and drag husband to Wette Midler. VCU '11.

WILLIAM LUTHER, he/they (Company & Production Manager) is a Richmond based theatre artist who has been working in the performing arts industry for a decade and a half. Their career began in South Carolina as a production stage manager, scenic designer, and costume designer. After graduating from the University of South Carolina Upstate with a BA in Communication Studies, William began working as the first full-time Production Manager for Spartanburg Little Theatre, in addition to doing freelance design work. Select credits include; Scenic Design: *Christmas on the Rocks* (RTP), *Sugar in Our Wounds* (RTP, 21-22 RTCC winner for Outstanding Achievement in Set Design - Play & Best Play), *Hands on a Hardbody* (SLT), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Centre Stage SC), 9 to 5 The Musical (SLT), *Chicago* (SLT); Costume Design: *Christmas on the Rocks* (RTP, 22-23 RTCC nominee for Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design - Play), *Xanadu* (SLT), *The Rocky Horror*  Show (SLT), Legally Blonde (SLT); Technical Direction: Head Over Heels (RTP, 22-23 RTCC nominee for Best Musical), The Inheritance (RTP, 22-23 RTCC winner for Best Play). In 2018 he joined the production team at the Peace Center in Greenville, SC where they worked on Broadway National Tours (Hello, Dolly!, Come From Away, My Fair Lady, Once on This Island, Disney's Aladdin, and more) and single night concert engagements (Jerry Lee Lewis, Sarah McLachlan, The B-52's, and more). William moved to RVA in the spring of 2021. They are a loving cat dad to Shakespeare and partner to Parker and Kelly.

**KENDALL WALKER**, *she/her* (**Community Engagement Manager**) works locally as an actor and dramaturg. As a recent graduate of VCU's MFA program for Theater Performance & Pedagogy, she now serves as an adjunct professor in the arts department and business school at VCU. Kendall is so humbled by the opportunities RTP has presented her over the past 3 years. From co-directing *The Inheritance* and AD'ing *Head Over Heels* alongside Lucian Restivo, to working under William Luther helping with set and costumes for the season, to recently having her independent directorial debut with *Scrooge In Rouge*, she has grown so much with every show and project she gets to work on. Her passion for research and script analysis has been able to flourish as resident Dramaturg of RTP, and as Community into supporting queer art. As Dramaturg of this production, Kendall has been able to delve into her favorite subject matter—the queer experience! She's so happy to see Lucian on stage and support this incredible show.

## RTP **STAFF**

\*part-time, contracted, and volunteer positions

Executive Director Artistic Director Company & Production Manager Community Engagement Manager Resident Production Stage Manager	Lucian Restivo William Luther Kendall Walker Lauren Langston*
Bookkeeping Service Richmond Per	
Bar Manager	Savita Sinha*
Volunteer Coordinator	Erinn Perry*
House Managers	D.J. Cummings, Keegan Ferrell*,
	Joel Kimling*, Shinji Oh*,
	Saskia Price*, Kendall Walker*
Bartenders	Mary Langston*, Matthew Reyna*, Russel Rowland*, Eric Russell*, Bernard Stackhouse*

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9

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## OUR MISSION & VISION

Richmond Triangle Players offers entertaining, thought-provoking, and inspiring theatre that explores identity, culture, and family across sexual orientation and gender spectrums, celebrating and giving voice to the variety and complexity of LGBTQ+ experiences.

We uplift hearts, open minds, and advance our community's conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion by telling stories with emotion, humor, and authenticity.

Our vision is that everyone arrives in our space feeling safe and welcomed and leaves feeling fulfilled and affirmed, perhaps even challenged and changed.

A nonprofit, professional theatre company founded in 1993, RTP takes pride in being the leading performing arts company in the region that produces high quality transformational programming rooted in queer experiences and supports the development of queer artistry.

## BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gather today on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Indigenous peoples of this region, whose vibrant cultures, deep history, and enduring presence continue to enrich our community. We acknowledge the diverse Indigenous communities who have stewarded this land throughout the ages, including the Powhatan Confederacy, the Chickahominy, the Monacan, and many others whose names and contributions may be less well-known but are no less significant.

The land we now call Richmond, Virginia, holds a complex and layered history of colonization, dispossession, and resilience. We must recognize the painful legacy of settler colonialism, which has caused harm to Indigenous communities and their sacred connections to this land. As we engage in the performing arts and celebrate the power of storytelling at Richmond Triangle Players, we commit to honoring the ongoing struggles and achievements of Indigenous peoples and acknowledging the contributions they have made to the arts, culture, and the broader fabric of our society.

We also acknowledge the history of forced migration, slavery, and the ongoing struggles for justice and equality faced by African American communities in this region. As we perform and create in this space, we acknowledge the resilience, creativity, and cultural richness of Black communities and their enduring impact on our artistic expression.

Richmond Triangle Players is dedicated to fostering a spirit of inclusion, diversity, and equity in the performing arts. We pledge to work in partnership with Indigenous communities, African American communities, and all marginalized groups to ensure that our theater company is a welcoming and respectful space where the stories of all people can be shared and celebrated.

In recognizing the past and present injustices that have occurred on this land, we commit to seeking meaningful reconciliation and to actively engaging in the process of healing and justice. May we use this acknowledgment as a foundation for building a more just and equitable future together.

We express our gratitude to the Indigenous peoples of this land and to all who have called it home. We honor their wisdom, resilience, and enduring contributions to our shared humanity.



#### FRIENDS OF RTP

The following organizations and individuals have made generous pledges and gifts to our Annual Fund, which enables Richmond Triangle Players to present its season each year and support its ongoing operations. To everyone who helps us keep our unique voice alive every year, Thank You!

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We also thank those donors whose gifts totaled under \$125 for the year.

This list includes gifts & pledges received as of January 24, 2024. To make a contribution to RTP, or correct an error in this listing, please visit www.rtriangle.org, or contact Philip Crosby at 804-342-7665.

## SPECIAL WAYS TO SUPPORT RTP

#### THE JOHN KNAPP & TIM GILLHAM FUND

Established as a part of RTP's 25th Anniversary Campaign to support the creation and development of new LGBTQ works.

#### LEGACY PLANNING

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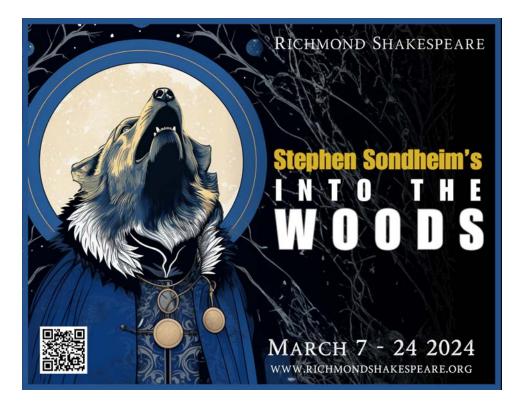
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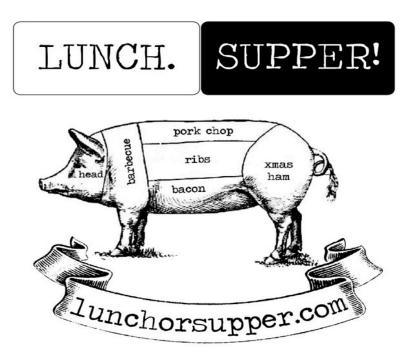
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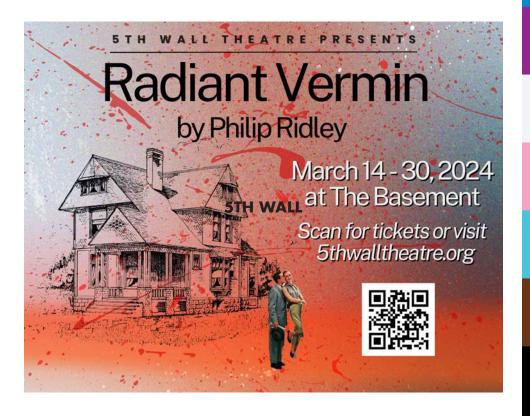




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