

ZACH

T H E A T R E

DAVE STEAKLEY, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& ELISBETH CHALLENGER, MANAGING DIRECTOR
PRESENT

THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by
WILLIAM FINN

Book by
RACHEL SHEINKIN

Conceived by **REBECCA FELDMAN**
Additional Material by **JAY REISS**

Directed by **DAVE STEAKLEY**

Music Direction & Choreography by **ADAM ROBERTS**

Set Design **MICHAEL RAIFORD**
Costume Design **SUSAN BRANCH TOWNE**
Lighting Design **JASON AMATO**
Sound Design **CRAIG BROCK**
Properties Design **CHRISTOPHER COGSWELL**
Stage Manager **LISA GOERING***

*Member Actors' Equity Association

ZACH's Kleberg Stage • Opening Night: September 19, 2009

Originally produced on Broadway by
DAVID STONE, JAMES L. NEDERLANDER, BARBARA WHITMAN,
PATRICK CATULLO, BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY,
SECOND STAGE THEATRE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm.

The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 or www.MTIShows.com. ZACH's production is presented under a Small Professional Theatre Contract with **ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States and is a Constituent Member of **THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG)**, the prestigious association of professional theatres nationwide. ZACH's programs are funded, in part, by the City of Austin, under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission; the Texas Commission on the Arts; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Cast

The Spellers

Chip Tolentino.....ANDREW CANNATA
 Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere.....AMY DOWNING
 Leaf ConeybearJOSEPH BANKS*
 William Barfee.....JOSÉ VILLARREAL*
 Marcy ParkEVE ALONZO
 Olive Ostrovsky.....LUCY JENNINGS

The Adults

Rona Lisa PerettiJILL BLACKWOOD*
 Vice Principal Douglas Panch.....LES McGEHEE
 Mitch Mahoney.....BERNARD DAVIS
 Understudy for Rona Lisa PerettiAMY NICHOLS
 Understudy for Douglas PanchDAV WALLACE

* Member Actors' Equity Association

The Band

Piano and Synthesizer JASON CONNOR
 Percussion ARNIE YAÑEZ
 Reed CYNTHIA MIXON
 Cello MARGARET COLTMAN

Production Sponsors:



Season Sponsor:



\$20 Wednesday Night Series Sponsor:



Any taping, filming, recording, or broadcast of this play (musical or otherwise) and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, or by camera phone, is strictly prohibited.

Drinks are welcome in the theatre, but no snacking please. Remember to turn off your cell phone and/or pager prior to the show.

Season Sponsors

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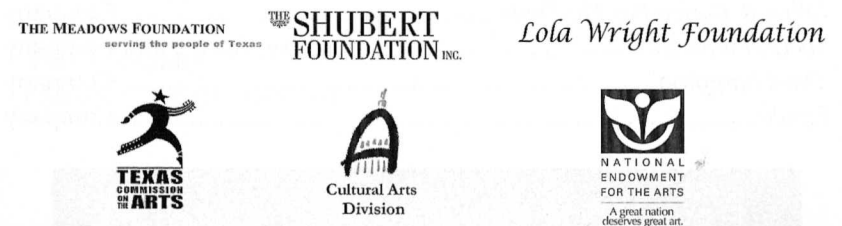
ZACH Theatre Season Sponsors



ZACH Theatre Education Partners



ZACH Theatre Foundation & Government Support



This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

For more information, or to become a sponsor, please contact Holly Wissmann, Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager at (512) 476-0594 ext. 232 or holly@zachtheatre.org.

The Songs

ACT I

<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Rona and Company
<i>The Rules</i>	Panch, Rona and Company
<i>My Friend the Dictionary</i>	Olive and Company
<i>Pandemonium</i>	Chip and Company
<i>I'm Not That Smart</i>	Coneybear
<i>Magic Foot</i>	Barfee and Company
<i>Pandemonium (Reprise)</i>	Chip, Mitch and Company
<i>Chip Goodbye</i>	Company
<i>Rona Moment #2</i>	Rona
<i>Prayer of the Comfort Counselor</i>	Mitch and Company

There will be one 15-Minute Intermission
Please visit the on-stage snack bar in the Putnam County Cafetorium

ACT 2

<i>Chip's Lament</i>	Chip
<i>Woe Is Me</i>	Schwarzy and Company
<i>Spelling Montage</i>	Panch and Company
<i>I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)</i>	Coneybear
<i>I Speak Six Languages</i>	Marcy and Company
<i>Jesus</i>	Marcy, Chip and Company
<i>The I Love You Song</i>	Olive, Olive's Mom and Olive's Dad
<i>Woe Is Me (Reprise)</i>	Mitch and Schwarzy
<i>Rona Moment #3</i>	Rona and Company
<i>Second (Part 1)</i>	Panch, Olive, Barfee and Company
<i>Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux</i>	Company
<i>Second (Part 2)</i>	Olive, Barfee and Company
<i>The Champion</i>	Company
<i>Finale</i>	Company

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PRIVATEEVENTS@ZACHTHEATRE.ORG

Director's Notes

Welcome to the first show in ZACH's 2009-2010 OUR TOWN season, focused on the home-town artists who make our city such a vibrant, unique and rewarding place to live! For this performance, all of the actors and musicians on our stage, all of the artists who created the choreography, set, costume, light, sound and prop designs, and the technicians backstage and in our control booth – all of them – live right here in Austin. Over 300 professional artists, technicians and carpenters will be employed here at ZACH this season, and we always hire Austin first.

In the subsequent pages of this program, we are featuring photographs of our ZACH Creative Team when they, like the young contestants in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, were between the ages of 10 to 12. In rehearsals, I am fond of saying to our actors, "It's called a play for a reason, so let's PLAY!" Oftentimes what we are striving for in a rehearsal is simply to return to our child-like impulses and a freedom to create without self-editing. The great joy of this musical is that it invites us to PLAY, and it permits us to open up the sandbox to you also, when four audience members join us in this performance as contestants.

Just like Austin, this Spelling Bee celebrates our differences, our uniqueness and gives us a place where we truly belong. Get ready to be transported back to those awkward years, when – in my case – you had hair, and lots of it ... like a helmet.

E - N - J - O - Y!

– Dave Steakley
Producing Artistic Director

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About the Company



EVE ALONZO (*Marcy Park*) – AT ZACH: *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella*. REGIONAL: *The Wizard of Oz* (Broadway Texas), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Zilker Hillside Theatre) and *The Music Man* (Tex-Arts).



JOSEPH BANKS* (*Leaf Coneybear*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL: *Hair!* (City Lights Theatre), *Girlfriend* (TheatreWorks), *Peter Pan* (Austin Scottish Rite) *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* (Austin Playhouse), *Miss Nelson Is Missing*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, *The Raven's Tale* (California Theatre Center). FILM: *Grindhouse*. TELEVISION: *Friday Night Lights*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Company*, *Tail End Charlie*, *Depressed Roomies*, *A Man Of No Importance*, *On The Razzle*, *Medea*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Homage That Follows* (Southwestern University). ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A. from Southwestern University.



JILL BLACKWOOD* (*Rona Lisa Perretti*) – AT ZACH: *The Rocky Horror Show* ('99& 2000), *Master Class*, *Cabaret*, *AIDA*, *Urinetown*, *Bad Dates*, *365 Days/365 Plays*. REGIONAL THEATRE: Jill has also performed with The State Theatre, Austin Playhouse, Austin Shakespeare, the former Austin Musical Theatre/Broadway Texas, TexArts, Mississippi's New Stage Theatre and Musical Theatre Works in NYC. OTHER: Jill has received multiple B. Iden Payne and Austin Critics' Table Awards for her work over the years, most recently the Austin Critics' Table Award for Best Actress for her performance opposite Broadway and TV veteran Patrick Cassidy in TexArts' production of *Carousel* at the Paramount Theatre, and for her work as a guest artist in *Full Circle* at St. Edward's Mary Moody Northern Theatre.



ANDREW CANNATA (*Chip Tolentino*) – is making his first appearance at ZACH. REGIONAL: He was most recently seen in *Little Shop of Horrors* (The Long Center's Rollins Theatre). Other credits include: *Parade* and *Pajama Game* (Austin Critics' Table Award Nomination, Mary Moody Northern Theatre), *My Favorite Year* and *Beauty and the Beast* (Zilker Summer Musicals), and *Last Five Years* (McCallum's Professional Troop).

* Member Actors' Equity Association

About the Company



BERNARD DAVIS (*Mitch Mahoney*) – joins ZACH for the first time. He was most recently seen in *Only God Can Change Me* (The Public Theatre). OTHER THEATRE: *Ragtime*, *A Chorus Line*, *Working*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Exonerated*, *Not About Nightingales* and *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*.



AMY DOWNING (*Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere*) – AT ZACH: *Speeding Motorcycle*, Ms. Darbus in *High School Musical* for which she won a B. Iden Payne Award, Ms. Ericson and Lady Saltburn in *Present Laughter*, and Soupy Sue in *Urinetown*. AUSTIN CREDITS: *Black Snow* (Tutto Theatre at SVT), Amelia Earhart in *Flight 916* (Refraction Arts), Helena Landless in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Austin Playhouse), Holly in *Nickel N' Dime* and Ms. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* (The State Theatre). REGIONAL THEATRE: Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line* and Mrs. Sowerberry in *Oliver* (Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Summer Tht. Company), Potiphar's Wife in *Joseph* (The Hangar Theatre). NEW YORK CREDITS: Sally Bowles in The National Tour of Sam Mendes' Broadway revival of *Cabaret*; *Trapped Family Singers* with Alex Geminiani and Nick Wyman, Lady Capulet in Terrence Mann's musical workshop of *Romeo and Juliet*. TELEVISION: *Guiding Light*. Amy studied at CCM and is a graduate of Ithaca College.



LUCY JENNINGS (*Olive Ostrovsky*) – AT ZACH: *Urinetown* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. OTHER THEATRE: *Warpstar Sexysquad*; *The Ultimate Christmas Musical: The Musical*; *I Am Not Tartuffe*; *I Love My Dead Gay Son: The Musical*; and *Hobbled* (Yellow Tape Construction Co.), *Vampyress* and *Sleeping Beauty* (original production, Vortex Theatre), *Pericles: Prince of Tyre*; *The Misses Overbeck*; and *An Ideal Husband* (Different Stages). ADDITIONAL CREDITS: BFA-acting from Texas State University-San Marcos and a one year certificate from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA).

The actors and artistic staff photos pictured on these pages are the actual photographs of our ZACH Team when they, like the young contestants in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, were in their Elementary and Middle School years!

About the Company



LES McGEHEE (*Vice Principal Douglas Panch*) – AT ZACH: *Sideman, Keepin' it Weird, Urinetown, Plays Well With Others* (based on his book), *365 Days/365 Plays* and *Blue Monday Project*. Les is an author and a working comedian who has performed thousands of shows across the U.S. and abroad. He can be seen locally in ComedySportz at Café Caffeine. Les lives in South Austin with Christina and his daughters Marina and Lucia.



JOSÉ VILLARREAL* (*William Barfee*) – AT ZACH: *Seussical The Musical, Wanda's World, Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella*. REGIONAL: *Frankenstein, La Victima*. José was most recently seen as Prince Francis/The King in *The Frog Prince* (Scottish Rite). TELEVISION: *Prison Break*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A. from St. Edward's University



AMY NICHOLS (*Understudy for Rona Lisa Perretti*) – AT ZACH: *Seussical The Musical, Wanda's World*. REGIONAL: *The Ultimate Christmas Musical: The Musical!, Mame!, Orpheus Descending, Kiss Me Kate*. FILM: *Baghdad, Texas*. OTHER THEATRE: *A Chorus Line, Nunsense, Godspell, Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A. from Texas Tech University, 2008-Austin Critics' Table Award for Best Supporting Performer.



DAV WALLACE (*Understudy for Vice Principal Douglas Panch*) – is making his first appearance at ZACH. Dav is the show manager and creative director for ComedySportz Austin. He is a devoted husband and loving father of two wonderful boys.

* Member Actors' Equity Association

Have Your Group's Holiday Party at ZACH!

Take advantage of great discounts with priority seating for your group of 8 or more! Party facilities available at the theatre for your pre- or post-show gathering!

Contact Amanda at 476-0541, x221 for Details

ZACH Leadership



DAVE STEAKLEY (*Producing Artistic Director*) – Dave is dedicated to creating a place where our community gathers for a collective imaginative act. Now in his 19th season, he invites and celebrates the diversity of voices that make Our Town such a unique and energizing place to live. Dave believes theatre offers an arena in which we might be challenged to understand not just our own lives, but also the world in which we live, and is committed to creating plays and musicals that open meaningful conversations on topics that have resonance in our community. Dave has led ZACH to unprecedented audience growth with artistic and organizational excellence:

WORLD PREMIERES

- New plays by Anna Deavere Smith, Steven Dietz, Everett Quinton, John Walch, Allen Robertson & The Flaming Idiots
- *365 Plays/365 Days* by Suzan-Lori Parks. ZACH served as the Austin hub and produced the opening & closing weeks of a nationwide, year-long festival
- *Jesucristo Superstar*, ZACH created the first bi-lingual adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's landmark musical
- The Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, a jazz and R&B reinvention featuring an all-new score set in Katrina ravaged New Orleans, which received national acclaim from *The New York Times* and the Gershwin Estate

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

ON OVER 250 ZACH PRODUCTIONS INCLUDING:

The Grapes of Wrath, Caroline, or Change, The Clean House, Take Me Out, Present Laughter, I Am My Own Wife, Urinetown, Crowns, Omnium Gatherum, Hair, The Pavilion, The Laramie Project, Hedwig, Jelly's Last Jam, Jouët, The America Play, The Who's Tommy, Dreamgirls, The Rocky Horror Show starring Joe York, *Full Gallop* starring Karen Kuykendall, *The Mystery of Irma Vep, Angels In America* and *Beehive*

REGIONAL DIRECTING CREDITS

Actors Theatre of Louisville, New Stage Theatre, American Heartland Theatre, WaterTower Theatre, City Theatre and Downstairs Cabaret

PLAYWRIGHT

- *Rockin' Christmas Party*, ZACH's annual holiday tradition that is also performed at theatres nationwide

ZACH Leadership

- *Keepin' It Weird*, a play about Austin's unique character featured on CBS Sunday Morning, NPR, *The Wall Street Journal* and *American Theatre*

SERVICE TO THE THEATRE FIELD

- National Endowment for the Arts Theatre Panelist
- Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters Program Panelist
- National Alliance for Musical Theatre New Works Committee
- The University of Texas, St. Edward's University guest lecturer

RECOGNITION

- 2005 Austin Circle of Theaters Special Recognition Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Austin Theatre"
- City of Austin declares May 18, 2001 as "Dave Steakley Day" in recognition of his tremendous support of professional theatre in Central Texas
- *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" Readers Poll "Best Stage Director" six times
- Multiple Austin Critics' Table and B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Musical, Drama, Comedy, Director, Actor, Choreographer and Design
- 2000 Austin Under 40 Outstanding Arts & Entertainment Award
- *Austin Chronicle* "10 Best Productions of the Decade" selected Dave's productions of *The Gospel At Colonus* and *Ruthless! The Musical*



ELISBETH CHALLENGER (*Managing Director*) – joined ZACH Theatre as Managing Director in 2007 after having served as a non-profit consultant and the Executive Director of One World Theatre since moving to Austin. As ZACH's Managing Director, Elisbeth is responsible for a \$20M capital campaign towards the building of a new theatre as well as the management, development and finances of the organization. Under her guidance ZACH has just completed a Five Year Strategic Plan which will move the organization into the next phase of its significant expansion. Prior to Austin, she resided in the San Francisco bay area where she was Montalvo Arts Center's Executive Director, spending nearly 20 years with the organization. As Executive Director, Elisbeth led Montalvo's growth from a small, community-based organization into a major presenting venue and home to an internationally acclaimed artists' residency program. Other accomplishments during her tenure included increasing ticket sales from less than \$500K to more than \$4 million, expanding the patron base from 6,000 to 80,000;

About the Artistic Staff

and raising more than \$20 million for capital projects. Earlier in her career, she served as Administrative Director for the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Education/Outreach Director of the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf, and as department chair and faculty member of the performing arts department of The Purnell School in New Jersey. Elisbeth graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music with a bachelor's degree in fine arts in drama and musical theatre. She attended the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program, Center for Excellence in Nonprofit Management Leaders Institute in San Jose, CA and served in leadership roles for the American Leadership Forum, Silicon Valley, Saratoga Rotary Club, Junior League of San Jose, and the Downtown Austin Alliance Parks Committee. Elisbeth has always had a passion for the theatre and performed for many years in summer stock, dinner theatre, and semi-professional productions on the east coast and in California.



ADAM ROBERTS (*Musical Director/Choreographer*) – has served as musical director or choreographer for over seventy productions to date, with choreography credits including two European concert tours. He is also highly active as an interpreter of sacred music, having served as musical director at churches in Florida and Ohio, and currently as resident pianist at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Austin. Adam holds a Master's degree in Music and a College Teaching Certificate from The Florida State University and received undergraduate degrees from Youngstown and Kent State universities. He serves as a director and instructor in the pre-professional division of ZACH's Performing Arts School and teaches musical theatre performance technique at various institutions throughout Austin. His students have appeared in principal roles on Broadway, in regional theatre and on network television, and have been admitted to some of the nation's highly competitive collegiate musical theatre programs.



MICHAEL RAIFORD (*Set Design*) – is a freelance scenic and costume designer based in Austin, Texas. Michael has been a designer at ZACH Theatre for over 18 years where he has designed over 90 productions. ZACH projects include: *Let Me Down Easy*, *Caroline, or Change*, *The Clean House*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesu Cristo Superestrella*, *Take Me Out*, *Urinetown*, *The Exonerated*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Keepin' It Weird*, *Crowns*, *The Laramie Project*, *Aida*, *The America Play*, *Hank William Lost Highway*, *Cabaret*, *Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, *Limonade Tous Le Jours*, *Smokey Joe's Café*,

About the Artistic Staff

Hair, Hedwig, The Pavilion, Evita, Tru, The Rocky Horror Show (1999 & 2006), *Angels in America* (Parts I and II) and so many versions of costumes and sets for *Rockin' Christmas Party* we quit counting! Michael is now in his third season at the Humana Festival of New American plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville. His designs have included sets for the premiere of Craig Wright's new play *The Unseen* and Carlos Murillo's *Dark Play or Stories for Boys*. Also at Actors Theatre, Michael designed costumes and video for *Jou  t*, which was first produced at ZACH where he designed the sets and video. Other favorite Regional Theatre projects include: *Well* and *The Chosen* at Cleveland Playhouse; *Give 'em Hell Harry* and the U.S. premiere of *The Young Lady from Rwanda* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *Guys and Dolls* at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre in Florida; *The Fantastiks* at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC; and *What Goes Up* at the New Victory Theatre in NYC. Other Austin Projects include *Rigoletto* for Austin Lyric Opera; *Big Love* and *Tesla* for the Rude Mechanicals.



SUSAN BRANCH TOWNE (*Costume Design*) – Previous ZACH designs: *The Clean House, Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella, Present Laughter, Bad Dates, Urinetown, Aida, Cabaret, It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues, Always...Patsy Cline, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Smokey Joe's Cafe, The Laramie Project* and *Jelly's Last Jam*. Other Austin credits include *The Bat* for Austin Lyric Opera; and *My Favorite Year, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Annie Get Your Gun, The Secret Garden* and *Crazy For You* for Zilker Theatre Productions. Favorite regional engagements include *King Lear, The Diary of Anne Frank, and A Flea In Her Ear* at the Denver Center Theatre Company; *Crowns, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Twelfth Night, and The Taming of the Shrew* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival; *My Fair Lady, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Chicago, Julius Caesar, Tartuffe, Richard III* and *Sophisticated Ladies* at Pioneer Theatre in Salt Lake City; and *The Producers, A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd* and *Forum* for Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre. In New York, Susan designed for New York City Opera and numerous Off-Broadway productions. Susan is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University and the Yale School of Drama, and is a 23 year member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

About the Artistic Staff



CRAIG BROCK (*Sound Design*) – A freelance audio engineer since 1989, he also works as a recording engineer and music producer. AT ZACH: *Love, Janis, The Grapes of Wrath, Let Me Down Easy, Shooting Star, Beehive, Caroline or Change, The Clean House, Altar Boyz, Porgy and Bess, Speeding Motorcycle, Seussical, High School Musical, Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella, Plaid Tidings, An Almost Holy Picture, Take Me Out, The Rocky Horror Show, I Am My Own Wife, Urinetown, Hank Williams: Lost Highway, Aida, Rockin' Christmas Party, The Santaland Diaries, Crowns, Cabaret*. REGIONAL: *The Music Man, Romeo & Juliet, Starlight Express* (Las Vegas Hilton). Album credits include: El Tri, Mana, Luis Miguel, Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, Barbra Streisand, David Crosby, Stephen Stills.



CHRISTOPHER COGSWELL (*Properties Design*) – AT ZACH: Christopher was the Properties Master for *Let Me Down Easy, Shooting Star, Beehive, and Rockin' Christmas Party*; and Properties Designer for *Caroline, or Change*. OTHER THEATERS: *Blackbird, The Hallow*; COLLEGE: *Anything Goes, Pride and Prejudice, Tempest, Treasure Island, The Pirates of Penzance, Anna in the Tropics, Six X Six*; SCHOOL: *Smash, Once Upon A Mattress, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Grease, Big Love, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, My Fair Lady, Guys and Dolls, 10th Annual Scotland Fringe Festival: Paganini*.



LISA GOERING* (*Stage Manager*) – Lisa is happy to be stage managing again at ZACH, having previously worked on *Jesus Christ Superstar, Crowns, and Keepin' It Weird*, among others. Most recently she stage managed *An Ideal Husband* for Austin Shakespeare, but also keeps busy working as a dresser, sound board operator and in costume shops around town, and was fortunate enough to spend the last two summers building costumes for the Shakespeare Festival at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. If you are old enough, you might remember seeing her onstage in *Carousel* and *A Christmas Carol* at ZACH and *The Snow Queen* with Second Youth.



TAYNESHIA L. JEFFERSON (*Production Manager*) – is a native of Houston, Texas, now residing in Austin. She has previously worked with Houston Grand Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Theatre Under the Stars (Houston, TX), 2nd Youth Repertory Theatre (Austin, TX), Austin

* Member Actors' Equity Association

About the Artistic Staff

Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Houston Ebony Opera Guild. She served as Stage Manager for Austin dance companies including Jean Fogel Zee, Ariel Dance Theatre and deafdancedeaf. In 2000, she left Texas to attend the Professional Theatre Training Program located at the University of Delaware. During her time there she was fortunate to work on projects at both the Kennedy Center (Washington, DC) and the Tony Award-winning Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, GA). Upon obtaining her MFA in Stage Management in, she accepted a position as the Director of Production & Artistic Associate for the Utah Festival Opera Company in Logan, Utah, where she produced well over 100 productions and events.



PAUL FLINT (*Technical Director*) – joined ZACH Theatre in 2008. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Shorter College and Master of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a focus on Technical Direction, Scenic Design and Arts Management. He has over ten years experience in technical theatre and has worked as a Technical Director for seven years. His theatre credits include the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA, Glimmer Glass Opera in Coopers Town, NY, Vitalist Theatre Company in Chicago, IL and a founding member of Seaside Repertory Theatre in Seaside, FL. Paul is the author of *Managing the Creative Mind: A Technical Director's Process*.



BLAIR HURRY (*Costume Shop Manager*) – grew up in Austin and studied Costume Design and Technology at the University of Texas. While attending UT, she designed costumes for *The Famous Rio Grande*, *The Trojan Women* and *Cabaret*. Her most recent costume design works include *Vampyress* for the Vortex Theatre, *Parade: A Musical* for St. Edward's University and *Shooting Star* for ZACH Theatre. She has in built costumes for The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Ohio Light Opera Company and STAGES: St. Louis. She returned to Austin after touring as Head of Wardrobe and Make-up for the national tour of Playhouse Disney's *The Doodlebops LIVE!* and the 2008 National tour of The Moscow Ballet's *The Great Russian Nutcracker*. She is an active member of the local 205 IATSE union and thrilled to be part of the ZACH Theatre team.