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**A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL**

BY **CHARLES DICKENS**

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY **COURTNEY SALE**

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 24



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COURTNEY SALE

NANCY L. DONAHUE EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Happy Holidays and welcome to our second show of the 45th season! Whether you are a life-long subscriber and have spent your Past with us, or here in the Present for your first MRT show, we hope that you will continue to share the Future with MRT. We are proud to present the redemptive power of *A Christmas Carol* a second year with you and your families.

Charles Dickens writes: **“There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor;”** which is at the heart of this classic’s

adaptation that is enriched by Lowell’s history. When Dickens toured America in 1842, one of his first stops was the Lowell Mills. Many scholars posit the mill girls’ writing inspired Dickens’ beloved holiday tale. This is truly a story that is meant to be told on our stage, and it is an incredible honor to welcome it back for a second consecutive season.

I have had a tremendous time in the last few weeks working with this company of professional actors. Returning this holiday season is the wildly talented

WELCOME!

THIS IS A DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE,
ACCEPTING, AND SAFE SPACE.

Karen MacDonald reprising her role as Scrooge. Karen enjoys a long history of collaboration with MRT and every time it is a joy to see her capture the hearts of audiences. We are grateful to lift up the work of our local youth cast, whose talents and dedication inspire me as they light up the stage. Huge appreciation to their parents and guardians who have partnered with us to make their performances possible – thank you for your support and for all you do for them and us. It has also been beyond joyous to work closely again with this outstanding design team, whose every choice is filled with such great creativity and care. We could not do any of this without the dedicated MRT staff, Trustees, and volunteers.

As for you, our audience, your support throughout the year has been the greatest gift we could ask for! We hope you will consider MRT in your year-end giving. Our creative work is always inspired and fulfilled when we hear you gasp or laugh, and we love watching everyone come together for our performances. Thank you for joining us in cherishing the present together, and I hope that you enjoy MRT’s *A Christmas Carol*.

In Service,
Courtney

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ABOUT US

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In addition to in-house dining, the restaurant will offer a full and complete take-out and catering services as well.



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EGUSI SOUP & FUFU

Made with ground melon seeds, spinach, and African spices, served with braised beef. Recommended sides are fufu or fried plantains.



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Jamaican braised oxtail with white beans. Fall off the bone tender. Served with sauteed vegetables and rice of choice.



CURRY RASTA PASTA

Penne pasta in a creamy coconut curry sauce with bell peppers and red onions.



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A traditional Cameroonian peanut stew made with bitter leaves. Flavored with garlic and crayfish and served with shrimp and beef. Served with rice of choice.



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Made with bone-in chicken, potatoes, spices, and olives, cooked until tender. Paired with rice of your choice.

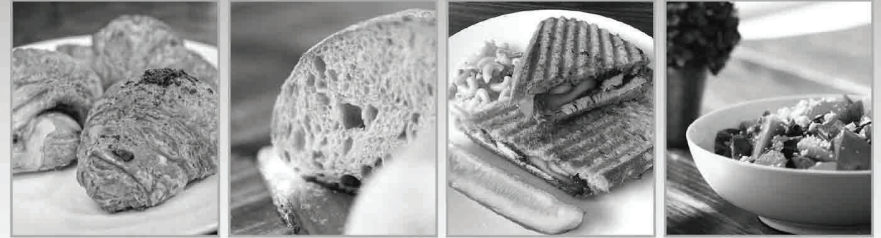


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PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY
CHARLES DICKENS

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
COURTNEY SALE⁺

FEATURING | ADULT CAST

ALEXIS BRONKOVIC*
TOM COINER*
KAREN MACDONALD*
CHRIS THORN*
KRISTIN YANCY*

FEATURING | YOUTH CAST | GREEN

ELLIE BRANCO
BROGAN W. ROURKE
SHAYLA ROURKE
CAMERON STRAKER
VIVIAN STRAKER

FEATURING | YOUTH CAST | RED

NATHAN ICART
ZOLIVIA NASTASIA
SKYLER ROY
AUDREY MARIE WENTWORTH
MAGGIE WILSON

SCENIC DESIGNER

SHELLEY BARISH

COSTUME DESIGNER

BECCA JEWETT

LIGHTING DESIGNER

BRIAN LILIENTHAL[^]

COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGNER

ROB WITMER[^]

MUSIC DIRECTOR

KAREN OSTER

STAGE MANAGER

SUSAN L. HUDSPETH*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

JORDAN E. MOORE*

DIRECTED BY

COURTNEY SALE⁺

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 24, 2023

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[^]Member of United Scenic Artists

+Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers

CAST

	Alexis Bronkovic*	Sister of Mercy, Belle, Mrs. Cratchit, Broker 1, et al.
	Tom Coiner*	Marley, Fred, Ebenezer, Broker 2, et al.
	Karen MacDonald*	Charles Dickens/Scrooge
	Chris Thorn*	Bob Cratchit, Fezziwig, et al.
	Kristin Yancy*	Past, Present, Future, et al.
	Ellie Branco	Tiny Tim, et al.
	Brogan W. Rourke	Poulterer's Kid, et al.
	Shayla Rourke	Belinda, et al.
	Cameron Straker	Peter, et al.
	Vivian Straker	Fan, et al.
	Nathan Icart	Poulterer's Kid, et al.
	Zolivia Nastasia	Belinda, et al.
	Skyler Roy	Fan, et al.
	Audrey Marie Wentworth	Peter, et al.
	Maggie Wilson	Tiny Tim

YOUTH CAST | GREEN

YOUTH CAST | RED

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Amanda Davis	Production Assistant
Emily Allinson	Props Supervisor
Ally Maclean	Youth Cast Supervisor
David Hochoy	Choreography



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



+Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, a national theatrical labor union.



[^]The Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Sound Designers in this production are represented by United Scenic Artists (USA) Local USA-829, IATSE.



Merrimack Repertory Theatre is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



Merrimack Repertory Theatre operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), a consortium of regional theatres throughout the nation, and AEA (Actors' Equity Association), SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society), and USA (United Scenic Artists).

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WHO'S WHO



ALEXIS BRONKOVIC (Performer; Sister of Mercy, Belle, Mrs. Crachit, Broker 1, et al.) she/her/hers. **MRT:** *Macbeth* (Macbeth, et al), *Silent Sky*, earned Best Actress IRNE nomination (Henrietta Leavitt), *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley* (Elizabeth Bennet), *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Elizabeth Darcy) **Off-Broadway/New York:** *The Big Broadcast* (The Barrow Group Theatre) *Tiny Geniuses* (Fringe NYC at the Here Arts Center) **Regional:** *Born Yesterday* (Billie Dawn), Guthrie; World Premiere of *The Folks at Home* (Brittany/Alice), Baltimore Center Stage; *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Elizabeth Bennet) Arizona Theatre Company; *Amadeus* (Constanze), Maltz Jupiter Theatre; *A Christmas Carol* (Belle), Actors Theatre of Louisville; *Postwave Spectacular* (Allie), *Heist* (Kate Shapiro), Humana Festival ATL. **Web-series:** *2Some*, *Rainbow Ruthie*; **TV:** *Law & Order: SVU* (Amberlynn Rollins), *Uncoupled*, *FBI Most Wanted*, *Blacklist*, *Younger*, *The Affair*, *Royal Pains*, *Blue Bloods*; **Film:** *Spray Away*, *Oleander*, *The Reunion*, *How to Say Goodbye*, *Jimmy & Don*, *Veritaphobia*, *On Settling Down*, *Julia*. Education: BA Theatre Performance from Marymount Manhattan College, Actors Theatre of Louisville Professional Training Company Alum. Other: Thrilled to be back at MRT. So much love and thanks to her Rats and Fire Dragon.



TOM COINER (Performer; Marley, Fred, Ebenezer, Broker 2, et al.) he/him/his. Tom is thrilled to be returning for MRT's 45th season. Tom was born in Marlborough and attended Kenyon College and the National Theater Conservatory. He's appeared Off-Broadway in *The Daughter in Law* (Mint Theater) and *God Said This* (Primary Stages). At MRT he's performed in *Gaslight*, *The 39 Steps*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Silent Sky*. He's also worked on *The Invisible Hand* (Milwaukee Rep), *The Full Catastrophe*, *On Clover Road*, *Wrecked*, and *Support Group for Men* (Contemporary American Theater Festival), *God Said This* (Humana Festival), *Good Men Wanted* (New York Stage & Film), *Both Your Houses*, *Our Betters*, *The Little Foxes*, and *The Great Society* (Asolo Rep). Onscreen Tom has appeared in *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Good Fight*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Night Of*, *Person of Interest*, *It's Bruno!*, and in one of the best video games ever made, *Red Dead Redemption 2*.



KAREN MACDONALD (Performer; Charles Dickens/Scrooge) she/her/hers. Karen has appeared at MRT many times, over the years, most recently as Elizabeth in *Gaslight*. She has appeared on many Boston/ New England stages including the Huntington Theatre Company,

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Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Trinity Rep, Hartford Stage, Portland Stage, The Lyric Stage, Speakeasy Stage and with the Boston Pops and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. As a Founding Company Member of the American Repertory Theatre, she appeared in 73 productions, in both the US and Europe. On Broadway, she understudied and performed the role of Amanda Wingfield in John Tiffany's production of *The Glass Menagerie*. New York credits include Theatre for a New Audience, Roundabout Theatre and Second Stage. Nationally, she has worked extensively from The Wilma Theater to Berkeley Rep. She is the recipient of the Robert Brustein Award for Sustained Achievement in the Theatre and the Eliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence.



CHRIS THORN (Performer; Bob Cratchit, Fezziwig, et al.) he/him/his. **Broadway:** *Death of Salesman* (2022), *Bernhardt/Hamlet* (Roundabout) **Off-Broadway:** *Greater Clements* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Pride and Prejudice* (Primary Stages), *Twelfth Night* (Pig Iron), *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* (Studio 42). **Regional:** The Guthrie Theater, The Cape Playhouse, CATE, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Barrington Stage, Delaware Theater Company, The Fulton Theatre Company, Theaterworks Hartford,

Boston Playwright's, and The Acting Company. **Film/TV:** *Evil*, *The Good Fight*, *Madam Secretary*, *Still on the Road*, and *The Sonnet Project*. Training: In 2023 Chris received an MFA from The University of Idaho with an emphasis in teaching. He is glad to be back in New England having received his BFA from Boston University. He is a native of South Berwick, ME.



KRISTIN YANCY (Performer; Past, Present, Future, et al.) she/her/hers. Kristin is thrilled to be performing again at Merrimack Repertory Theatre! Merry Christmas Lowell! Previous MRT: *Gaslight* (Bella). **Broadway:** *The Cher Show*; *Summer, The Donna Summer Musical* (u/s Disco Donna). **Off Broadway:** *Queen of the Night*. **National Tour:** *West Side Story* (u/s Anita). **Select Regional:** *Sunset Boulevard*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Tommy* (The Kennedy Center), *Chicago* (Roxie, Lexington Theatre Company), *Catch Me If You Can* (Arena Stage), *West Side Story* (Guthrie Theater, The REV Theatre Co.), *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*, *Camelot* (The Mundy). **TV:** *Hawkeye*, *Katy Keene*, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*. Big love and gratitude to the wonderful Courtney Sale, her cutie husband Eric Chaves, her family, The Hybrid Agency, and the most wonderful community of friends. Washington University in St. Louis grad.

WHO'S WHO



ELLIE BRANCO (Performer; Green Youth Cast—Tiny Tim, et al.) she/her/hers. Ellie is thrilled to be making her acting debut in the MRT's production of *A Christmas Carol*. She is a third grader at the Immaculate Conception School in Lowell. Ellie loves to sing and was a member of the Broadway Kids Company theater group. Her other interests include softball and lacrosse. Ellie is excited to be performing alongside her cousin Brogan and would like to thank her family for their support.



BROGAN W. ROURKE (Performer; Green Youth Cast—Poulterer's Kid, et al.) he/him/his. Brogan, 12, attends Lowell Catholic where he is a 3 sport athlete and a member of Choir, and Student Council. He began acting in LA at age 5 and can be seen in *Modern Family*, *Trouble with Mistletoe*, *SunGazer*, and in Wayfair, and Apple commercials. He has performed in *The Lion King* and *Newsies-LPDC*. Brogan is honored to be performing at MRT alongside his cousin Ellie. Brogan is thankful for his family's support.



SHAYLA ROURKE (Performer; Green Youth Cast—Belinda, et al.) she/her/hers. Shayla is honored to

take part once again in *A Christmas Carol* with MRT. This is her ninth main stage production overall. Favorite credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Mattie Cratchit), *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Whitney, et al), *James & The Giant Peach, Jr* (Matron Nurse, Ida Walters), *Disney's The Aristocrats Kids* (Amelia), *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Matilda), *Frozen Jr.* (Young Elsa). Shayla is a 7th grader in Lowell where she is part of the drama club. When not acting Softball is her second favorite activity along with spending time with friends.



CAMERON STRAKER (Performer; Green Youth Cast—Peter, et al.) she/her/hers. Cameron is at home in the theater and is overjoyed to be joining *A Christmas Carol* this season! Other recent roles include *Sponge (James and The Giant Peach)*, *Mayzie LaBird (Suessical)*, *Queen Aggravain (Once Upon a Mattress)*, and *Young Anna (Frozen)*. Cameron is a 7th grader at Wang Middle School and will perform the role of Mary Poppins in their spring performance. Cameron would like to thank her family and friends.



VIVIAN STRAKER (Performer; Green Youth Cast—Fan, et al.) she/her/hers. Vivian is thrilled to be back at MRT reprising the role of Fan in the second season of *A*

WHO'S WHO

Christmas Carol. Vivian is a fifth-grader at Wang Middle School. In addition to performing, she also plays Boomer Softball and PYO. Other performances include *Frozen, Jr.* and the upcoming *Mary Poppins, Jr.* Vivian would like to thank her family, friends, and all the amazing people here at MRT.



NATHAN ICART (Performer; Red Youth Cast—Poulterer's Kid, et al.) he/him/his. Nathan is twelve years old and he is in seventh grade. This is his first year at MRT's younger company and he absolutely loves it! He lives in Dracut, MA and is homeschooled. In his free time he enjoys swimming and playing the piano. He loves the arts and hopes to pursue his career in acting. Nathan would like to thank his family and friends for all their love and support. Enjoy the show!



ZOLIVIA NASTASIA (Performer; Red Youth Cast—Belinda, et al.) she/her/hers. Zolivia is thrilled to be back on the MRT stage. She is a freshman at Westford Academy and has participated in theater since age six. Of her 30 productions with Westford's Summer School for the Performing Arts, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Peacock Players, and others, her favorite credits include: *Mrs. Sorkin* (Mrs. Sorkin), *A Christmas Carol* (Peter Cratchit/Young Joe), *Descendants* (Audrey), *Tuck*

Everlasting (Constable Joe), and *Mary Poppins* (Ensemble).



SKYLER ROY (Performer; Red Youth Cast—Fan, et al.) she/her/hers. Skyler was born in Lowell, MA, she's 10 years old and attends the Bulter Middle School. Her hobbies include the following activities gymnastics, kung-fu, violin, swimming, roller blading. She also enjoys arts and crafts with her mother and drawing with her father. This is her first time involved in a play.



AUDREY MARIE WENTWORTH (Performer; Red Youth Cast—Peter, et al.) she/her/hers. Audrey Wentworth is an 8th grader at the Pyne Arts Magnet School here in Lowell. Last year she was excited to play the role of Gaston in her schools production of *Beauty and the Beast*. This year, she is taking on the role of Squidward in *SpongeBob the Musical* under the direction of Stephen Rose. This is Audrey's first time acting with the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and she couldn't be more thrilled to be part of *A Christmas Carol*. She hopes you enjoy the performance!



MAGGIE WILSON (Performer; Red Youth Cast—Tiny Tim) she/her/hers. Maggie is

WHO'S WHO

thrilled to be returning to MRT to reprise her role as Tiny Tim and Young Scrooge. She has also appeared as Red Crayon in *The Day the Crayons Quit* at the Reilly Elementary School and had fun at the Improv Camp at Innovation Academy. When not performing, Maggie likes playing lacrosse, reading, and hanging out with her cousins. She is a sixth-generation Lowellian and a fifth grader at Innovation Academy.

COURTNEY SALE (Director) she/her/hers. Courtney proudly serves as the MRT's Executive Artistic Director. She joined the company in March of 2020 and is honored to work for a remarkable organization with incredible people. At MRT she has directed *Gaslight*, *The 39 Steps*, *A Woman Of The World*, *Wild Horses*, and last season's *A Christmas Carol*. Playwrights commissioned under her tenure include Trista Baldwin, Vichet Chum, Kevin Kling, Melinda Lopez, Dael Orlandersmith, Klean Ung, and launched the Sokhary Chau Playwriting Fellowship. Under her leadership, MRT has increased service to students, strengthened its partnership in community, and ensured artistic excellence. She serves on Lowell's Canal Cultural District Management Committee. Courtney's directing has been seen across the country: *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Seattle Rep), *The Overview Effect*, *Support Group For Men*, *The Cake*, *Wild Horses*, *Not Medea* (Contemporary American Theater Festival), *The Mountaintop*, *The*

Mousetrap, *April 4 1968*, (Indiana Rep, also Associate Artistic Director 2013-2016), *Gaslight* (Cincinnati Shakes), *On Clover Road* (Phoenix Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (IndyShakes). She previously served as the Artistic Director at Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT), the nation's leading generator of new work for family audiences. She has developed new work with Denver Center, New Harmony, Dorset Theatre Festival, Emerson Stage, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and the Orchard Project. Other distinctions include Cornish College Distinguished Alumni Award, IBJ's 40 under 40 designation, and the 2017 keynote at the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. Courtney is a member of the National Theatre Conference. BFA, Cornish College of the Arts. MFA, The University of Texas at Austin.

SHELLEY BARISH (Scenic Designer) she/her/hers. Shelley is excited to return to Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Design credits include **Off-Broadway:** Théâtre Row: *Gideon's Knot* **Regional:** Lyric Stage Company of Boston: *Preludes*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Wolves*, *Hold These Truths*, *Camelot*, *Becky's New Car* and *Dear Elizabeth and Murder for Two*; **Regional:** Wheelock Family Theatre: *Matilda*; Greater Boston Stage Company: *Beehive*, *The Irish and How...*, *39 Steps*, *Incident of our Lady...*, *Little Women*, & Central Square Theatre: *Pipeline*, *Young Nerds of Color*. Peterborough Players: *Tell me on Sunday*, Cortland Repertory

WHO'S WHO

Theatre: *The Addams Family*, *Newsies*, *Legally Blonde*, *Cards on the Table*, Bristol Valley Theatre: *Boom!*, *Barefoot in The Park*, *Private Lives*, *Next Fall*. Shelley is a Professor and Coordinator of the Theatre Arts Program at UMASS Lowell. She received her M.F.A from Michigan State University. shelleybarish.com

BECCA JEWETT (Costume Designer) she/her/hers. Becca is pleased to be returning to MRT for another wonderful year of *A Christmas Carol*. Her most recent design credits include Costume Designer at New Rep's *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Diaspora*, *Speakeasy's Fairview* and, *Umbrella Arts Center's The Colored Museum*. Her other recent credits include Draper at the Huntington Theatre's production of *Fat Ham* and Design Assistant for *Heart Sellers*. Other recent credits include Crafts Department at the Glimmerglass Festival 2014-2017, Costume Shop Manager at Commonwealth Shakespeare Summer 2018 and Assistant Dyer Painter at the Santa Fe Opera 2019-Present. She looks forward to working on many new creative projects.

BRIAN LILIENTHAL (Lighting Designer) he/him/his. Previous at MRT: 38 Productions including: *I and You*, *the realness: a break beat play*, *Silent Sky*, *45 Plays....*, *A Christmas Carol ('22)*. **Regional:** Over 300 productions including: 60 productions at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alley Theatre, Arden Theatre Company,

Arizona Theatre Company, Capital Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Playhouse, GEVA Theatre Center, Gloucester Stage, Hartford Stage, The Huntington Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Milwaukee Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, Playmakers Repertory Theatre, South Coast Repertory, over 30 productions at Trinity Repertory Company, among others. He has won the Los Angeles Ovation Award for lighting design, as well as the 2016 Artistic Achievement Award from Merrimack Rep, and has been nominated multiple times for Boston's IRNE and Norton Awards. MFA: California Institute of the Arts. Mr. Lilienthal teaches lighting design at Tufts University. He is an in demand drummer in the Metro Boston area working with country, indie-folk, jump blues, and americana bands.

ROB WITMER (Composer/Sound Designer) he/him/his. Rob is a freelance composer and designer from Seattle, WA. Previously at MRT: *Best Summer Ever*, *A Christmas Carol ('22)*. Other recent credits include: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Seattle Opera); *Murder on the Links* (North Coast Rep/Laguna Playhouse); *Hello, Dolly!* (Village Theatre); *The Tempest* (Seattle Shakespeare Company); *Titanish* (Seattle Public Theater); *Red Riding Hood*, *Black Beauty* (Seattle Children's Theatre). His sound designs have also been heard at Seattle Rep, ACT Theatre, Spectrum Dance Theater, and Teatro ZinZanni. Rob is a member of United

WHO'S WHO

Scenic Artists, USA 829.

KAREN OSTER (Music Director) she/her/hers. Chair of Performing Arts, Middlesex Community College, BFA from The Boston Conservatory, M.Ed from Cambridge College, PH.D candidate Lesley University. Karen has directed and coordinated the performances of young cast members in numerous productions including the Broadway/National tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Paul Simon's *The Capeman* on Broadway with Marc Anthony. Karen is a professional musician and actress as well, having performed in various productions including: *Nunsense*, *Swingtime Canteen*, and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. She has performed at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Fullerton Civic Light Opera, Weston Playhouse, Charles Playhouse, Seaside Repertory Theatre, Royal Poinciana Playhouse and The Parker Playhouse. Karen has studied with well-known cabaret artists: Margaret Whiting, Julie Wilson, Andrea Marcovicci, and Craig Carnelia. And has directed and produced the revival of *The Baker's Wife* with composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Her adaptation of *The King and I* (G2K) is currently licensed for performance throughout the country.

SUSAN L. HUDSPETH (Stage Manager) she/her/hers. Susan L. Hudspeth has been a proud member of Actor's Equity Association since 1994. Susan

has worked Off Broadway, Regional Theatre, Dance, Opera, Sporting Events, Television, Corporate Events, Festivals as well as Touring Shows. She is pleased to be returning to MRT and so honored to be invited back for *A Christmas Carol*. As, always this is for you mom.

JORDAN E. MOORE (Assistant Stage Manager) she/her/hers. Jordan is thrilled to be returning to MRT for another year of *A Christmas Carol*! Favorite regional credits include: *A Christmas Carol 2022* and *Letters from Home* (MRT), *Rent* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Hysterical!*, *Athena*, and *The Suburbs* (Thrown Stone Theatre Company) and *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Pasadena Playhouse). She was also the Production Coordinator for Oregon Shakespeare Festival's digital production of *The Cymbeline Project* on Episodes 5 through 10. She has done various work at theaters such as NewYorkRep, Boston Court Pasadena, Musical Theatre West, the Old Globe, and the John F. Kennedy Center. Proud AEA Member. MFA: CalArts. www.jordanemore.com

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE (www.mrt.org) Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) celebrates 45 years this season as the Merrimack Valley's professional theatre. With a steadfast commitment to new voices, MRT's season includes several premieres, in the 279-seat Nancy L. Donahue Theatre at Liberty Hall.

WHO'S WHO

Under the leadership of the **Nancy L. Donahue Executive Artistic Director Courtney Sale**, MRT strives to fulfill its mission to "create remarkable new and contemporary plays that bring joy to our art form while engaging, entertaining and enriching our community." The non-profit company guarantees that shows are accessible to audiences of all incomes; partners with businesses and other non-profits to fully engage the community; and contributes to the economic vitality of Lowell by attracting diverse audiences from throughout the region.

Recent acclaimed productions include *Letters from Home*, *The 39 Steps*, *Best Summer Ever*, *Erma Bombeck: At*

Wit's End, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, the bestselling production in MRT's history, and *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, both by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon; *Cambodian Rock Band* by Lauren Yee and *KNYUM* by Vichet Chum, works in celebration of Lowell's Cambodian community; *The Haunted Life*, a world premiere adaptation of Jack Kerouac's unfinished novel; the world premiere of *The Rise and Fall of Holly Fudge* by Trista Baldwin; and plays about the Black experience, including *Until the Flood* by Dael Orlandersmith, *Nina Simone: Four Women* by Christina Ham, and *Back Together Again: The Music of Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway*.

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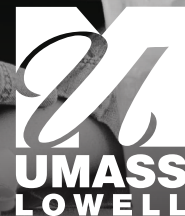
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Denise Cormier in *A Woman of the World* this past spring.

Photo by Kathy Wittman.



Maiesha McQueen in *Until the Flood* our first video on demand production and the first show of the special 2021-22 Season.

Photo by Kathy Wittman.

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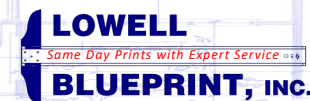
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Leenya Rideout in *Wild Horses* at Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens.
Photo courtesy of Megpix/Meghan Moore

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