

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**JONATHAN BUTLER-DUPLESSIS** (*Jim*) is excited to return to the TATC stage where he previously appeared in *A Christmas Carol-The Musical* in 2013. Earlier this year, he was in the cast of *Parade* at Writers Theatre. He is a native of Champaign, Illinois and a proud alumni of The University of Illinois where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting. He is also a former Acting Resident at The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Other favorite theatre credits include *The Little Mermaid, In The Heights, Tommy* (The Paramount Theater); *Sister Act, Man of La Mancha* (The Marriott Theatre) and *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* (Chicago Children's Theatre). Regional credits include *Dreamgirls, The Color Purple* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Actors Theatre of Louisville) and *The Merchant of Venice* (Riverside Shakespeare Festival).

**JAMES ROMNEY** (*Huck*) is excited to be making his Theatre at the Center debut! Other Chicago credits include *My Fair Lady, Carousel, and The Merry Widow* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); *Fly By Night* (Theo Ubique Cabaret); *A Wrinkle in Time* (Lifeline Theatre); *The Distance* (Haven Theatre); *Sita Ram* (Lookingglass Theatre); *The Forget Me Knot* and *La Chingada* (Inappropriate Theatre Company). Regional credits include *A Midsummer's Night Dream, Twelfth Night, and Man of La Mancha* (Texas Shakespeare Festival). James can be seen in the film *Seeing the Elephant* at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. He is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent and received his BFA from CCPA at Roosevelt University. James would like to thank Mom, Dad, and Michaelen.

**CAITLIN CAVANNAUGH** (*Mary Jane*) is ecstatic to be working with Theatre at the Center for the first time. Favorite credits include *Harvey* as Myrtle Mae (Purple Rose Theatre Company), *Twelfth Night* as Viola, *Carousel* as Carrie, *My Fair Lady* as Eliza Doolittle and *Noises Off* as Brooke with Texas Shakespeare Festival and *Marat/Sade* as Jacques Roux at the Sabanci International Theatre Festival in Adana, Turkey. She is a proud graduate of Northern Illinois University (BFA Acting) and Moscow Art Theatre School (Certificate in Acting) and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Inc. Upcoming: *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear* and *Willow Run* at Purple Rose Theatre, where Caitlin is a Resident Artist. She'd like to thank Linda and Bill for this incredible opportunity and her No.1 supporter, her mom. [www.caitlincavanaugh.webs.com](http://www.caitlincavanaugh.webs.com)

**LIZ CHIDESTER** (*Miss Watson, Susan, Sally*) is originally from the mountains of Virginia and moved to Chicago in the winter of 2013. She immersed herself into the Chicago music and theatre scene, releasing her debut record "People Pumping Pedals" in 2014 under CAU Dog Records. In 2015, she released the EP "Otter Hill", an intimate recording of 5 songs about her family and home life in Virginia. Her songs received recognition by NPR's Newsong Songwriting Competition as the 2014 Mid-west Finalist, the Chicago Music

Awards Best Female Vocalist Nominee in 2015, and a New-Song Songwriter Competition Finalist in 2016. Her music inspired the talent of close friends and family to create the electronic folk group LIZ AND THE LOVELIES. They released their first EP 'Progress into Simplicity' in March of 2017. Liz has worked with the Mercury Theatre, Theatre at the Center, Porchlight Music Theatre, Firebrand Theatre, Sideshow Theatre Company, Refuge Theatre Project, Odradek Theatre Company, and New American Folk Theatre as an actor and collaborator. Her work in Refuge Theatre Project's *High Fidelity* won the Jeff Award for Best Musical 2017. Liz is a teaching artist at Old Town School of Folk Music, Sherwood Music School, and Chicago Children's Theatre. She has her Bachelors of Music, Cum Laude from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

**MATT EDMONDS** (*Preacher, Dick, Wilkes, Andy, Doctor*) returns to Theatre at the Center, where he was last seen in *Pump Boys and Dinettes* as L.M. You may have seen him recently around Chicago in: *Ragtime* (Griffin Theatre); *Death of a Salesman* (Redtwist Theatre), Jeff Nomination for Best Supporting - Play; *Rent* (Theo Ubique, Jeff Award for Best Musical); *Titanic* (Griffin Theatre); and *The Last Five Years* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center). Regionally, Matt's performed in *Next To Normal* (TheatreSquared) and *Twelfth Night* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival). Up next, he will be starring in *Murder for Two*, with Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. He is a company member at Redtwist Theater, and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent. [www.matt-edmonds.com](http://www.matt-edmonds.com)

**GARRETT LUTZ** (*Ben, Lafe, Robinson, Sheriff, Silas*) is thrilled to be a part of Theatre at the Center's *Big River!* He was last seen in *Madagascar* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre) and *James and the Giant Peach* (Drury Lane Theatre). Other credits include Shakespeare in the Parks: *Twelfth Night* and *Short Shakespeare: Macbeth!* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Urinetown* and *Dogfight* (BoHo Theatre Ensemble), *Heathers* and *The Full Monty* (Kokandy Productions/ Jeff Award Nominated Lead Actor), *Spring Awakening* and *Cinderella: After the Ball* (Marriott Theater), *Three Sisters* (Steppenwolf Theater Co.), *Magic Treehouse: A Night in New Orleans* (Emerald City Children's Theatre), *A Marvin Hamlisch Songbook* (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater), *Triumph of Love* (Music Theatre Company), and *The Reckoning of Kit & Little Boots* (First Floor Theater). He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at North Central College. Love to his friends and family for the constant support!

**JOHANNA MCKENZIE MILLER** (*Widow Douglas, Joanna, Strange Woman, Dance Captain*) has previous TATC credits which include Christine in *Phantom*, Maria in *Sound of Music* and Louise in *Gypsy*. Other credits include *Bridges of Madison County, She Loves Me*, Ms. Riley in *October Sky*, Claire in *On The Town*, and Marian in *The Music Man* (Marriott Theatre), Titania/ Hippolyta in *A*

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*Midsummer Night's Dream* (First Folio), Catherine in *Shining Lives, a musical* (Northlight Theatre), Julie Jordan in *Carousel* (Court Theater/ Long Wharf Theatre), Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein* (Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace) and Dianne in *Million Dollar Quartet* (Apollo Theatre). Johanna has also worked at The Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, and The Ravinia Festival. She is the co-founder of Lombard Children's Theater Workshop and a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.

**KYLE QUINLIVAN** (*Tom Sawyer*) is excited to be making his Theatre at the Center debut. Recent credits include Jesus in *Godspell* (Covedale Center), Danny in *Baby* (Incline Theatre), Owen in *The Foreigner* (Covedale Center), and Piero/Leo in *Big Love* at the Theatre Festival of Havana. He has a BFA in Acting from Webster University and thanks his family and friends for all of their continual support. More about Kyle Quinlivan at [kylequin.com](http://kylequin.com).

**AARON MITCHELL REESE** (*Ensemble/Jim U/S*) is thrilled to make his TATC debut! Reese, a Chicago Native, is a Jeff Award Nominee and a BTAA Nominee for his work in *Balm in Gilead* (Griffin Theatre) and on *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* and *The Colored Museum* (PULSE). Reese, a graduate of Columbia College Chicago, is co-founder and Artistic Director of PULSE Theatre Chicago. Chicagoland credits include: *HAIR* (Tribe/Ronnie u/s Metropolis Performing Arts); *Golden Boy* (Ronnie/ Porchlight Music Theatre), *Cinderella at the Theater of Potatoes* (The Hypocrites); *Once on This Island* (Papa Ge/ B'way in Naperville); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas/ Summer Place), *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney/ SLATE); *In The Heights* (Benny/ SLATE); *Ragtime* (Coalhouse Walker, Jr./ Drama Group) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey 2/Drama Group). Directing Credits include: *The Colored Museum, Fabulation, A Streetcar Named Desire* (PULSE) and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (CCC)

**ADHANA REID** (*Betsy, Alice U/S*) is thrilled to make her debut at Theatre at the Center. Earlier this year, she was in the cast of *Spring Awakening* at Marriott Theatre. As a student at Northwestern University, she performed in Northwestern's *American Idiot* as Whatsername and *The WaaMu Show: GOLD*. She would like to thank the cast, directors, family and teachers for their unending trust and support throughout this process.

**JASON RICHARDS** (*Judge Thatcher and The Duke*) is thrilled to return to Theater at the Center where he was last seen as Drake the butler in *Annie Warbucks!* Other Chicagoland credits include: Tateh in *Ragtime* (Griffin), Roger Debris in *The Producers* (Mercury), *A Christmas Story* (Paramount), *City of Angels, La Cage aux Folles* (Marriott), *Shrek* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Assassins* (Kokandy Productions, Jeff Nomination), *The Wild Party* (Bailiwick Chicago,

Jeff Award- Best Ensemble), *Applause, Mack and Mabel, The Gifts of the Magi, Anyone Can Whistle* (Porchlight), *The Pajama Game* and *The 48 Hour Musicals* (Music Theatre Company). He received the Joseph Jefferson Award for his performance as Nicky/Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q* (NightBlue) and four Wilde Award nominations from his time as an actor in his hometown of Detroit. Commercials include Blue Cross Blue Shield, White Castle, The Illinois Lottery and Donato's Pizza.

**CAMILLE ROBINSON** (*Alice/Betsy U/S*) is honored to be making her TATC debut in such a lovely, timeless show. She owes everything to her family for she would be nothing without their love and support. Recent Chicago theater credits include: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Paramount Theatre), *A Wonder in My Soul* (Victory Gardens Theater), *Wonderful Town* (Goodman Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* and *It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!* (American Blues Theater). Recent TV/Film credits include: *Chicago Med* and *Chicago PD* (NBC). Represented by Gray Talent Group.

**STEVEN ROMERO SCHAEFFER** (*Young Fool, Jo, Hank, Huck U/S*) is thrilled to be in his first show at Theatre at the Center! In his first year in Chicago, Steven has appeared in *The People's History of the United States* (Quest Theatre Ensemble), *Hair* (Metropolis Center for the Arts), and will be in *Altar Boyz* (Theo Ubique) this winter. Touring Credits include *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Troupe America) and *The Golden Goose/ There Once was a Longhouse* (Finger Lakes MTF: Youth Tour). Regional Credits: *As You Like It/ The Taming of the Shrew* (South Dakota Shakespeare Festival), *The Night the Music Died, Hello, Dolly!* (Texas Family Musical), *Godspell/ The World Goes 'Round, A Funny Thing... Forum* (Strawhat Players).

**BRETT TUOMI** (*School Master, Pap, The King*) returns to Theatre at the Center, where he made his TATC debut as Murray the Cop in Summer 2016 in *The Odd Couple*. Most recently, he was seen at the Goodman in *Ah, Wilderness!*, where he has previously appeared in *A Christmas Carol* and *The Iceman Cometh*. Chicago credits include *ENRON* and *The Price* (TimeLine Theatre); *Julius Caesar, Henry V* and *Othello* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *West Side Story, Billy Elliot* and *Saturday Night Fever* (Drury Lane Theatre). Mr. Tuomi has appeared on Broadway and in the national tour of *Rock of Ages*. Regional credits include performances with Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Montana Repertory Theatre, the Alpine Theatre Project and Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. Mr. Tuomi has appeared on television in ABC's *Mind Games* and in the film *Keep the Change*.

**CHARLOTTE MORRIS** (*U/S Widow Douglas, Miss Watson, Mary Jane*) is thrilled to be back in the Midwest to make her TATC debut after graduating from Northwestern and then moving to New York in June. Previous Chicago credits include *Fugitive*

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*Songs* (Boho Theatre) and *Running!* (Stage 773). Favorite Northwestern credits: *Rent* (Maureen), *Sweeney Todd* (Beggar Woman), *Dogfight* (Marcy). Throughout college, Charlotte found a special love for new work, appearing in numerous workshops including American Music Theatre Project's *Discount Ghost Stories* and *Michael Collins*. She also composed for The Waa-Mu Show (2014-2017) and co-chaired The 86th Annual Waa-Mu Show: *Beyond Belief*. Charlotte is represented by The Roster Agency. [Charlotteamorris.com](http://Charlotteamorris.com)

**MICHAEL POTSIC** (*U/S Pap/King, Dick*) is a performer/writer based in Chicago. His last productions at TATC were *A Christmas Carol: the Musical* and *Annie Warbucks*. Some previous performing credits include *Rent* (Paramount Theatre), *Floyd Collins, Parade* (BoHo Theatre), *Assassins* (Kokandy Productions) and *Parade* (Writers Theatre). Michael has contributed music and lyrics to *The*

*Bully Show*, *Peter Pan* (AlphaBet Soup Productions), *Criticize Matters* (The Second City), and his musical *Flight* was presented by Kokandy Productions at the 2016 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. Michael's original children's pop album *Michael's Music Machine* will be available on iTunes and Spotify this November. [www.michaelsmusicmachine.com](http://www.michaelsmusicmachine.com) IG: [michaelsmusicmachine](https://www.instagram.com/michaelsmusicmachine)

**SAM SHANKMAN** (*U/S Tom, Jo, Ben*) is making his TATC debut. Originally hailing from Memphis, TN, Sam is a recent Northwestern University graduate, where some past credits include *Elephant and Piggie's We Are in a Play, A Year with Frog and Toad, My Fair Lady, The Hundred Dresses and Balloonacy*. Regional: *Madagascar* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Footloose, Spring Awakening, Speech & Debate* (Playhouse on the Square).



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## PRODUCTION PROFILES

**LINDA FORTUNATO** (*Director and Choreographer/TATC Artistic Director*) has been involved with more than a dozen shows at Theatre at the Center, including directing *The Tin Woman, Cabaret, Annie Warbucks* and *A Christmas Story*; choreographing *Spamalot, Big Fish, A Christmas Carol, Guys and Dolls, Crazy for You, Fiddler on the Roof*; performing in *Lend Me a Tenor* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. She has been nominated for five Joseph Jefferson Awards for her work as a choreographer and director. She received both the Equity and Non-Equity Jeff Award for Outstanding Choreography in the 2013-2014 season, garnering Theatre at the Center their first award for her choreography of *42nd Street*. Fortunato's other directing and choreography credits include work at BoHo Theatre, Peninsula Players, Marriott Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Timeline Theatre, Writers Theatre, American Players Theatre, Provision Theatre, Remy Bumpgo, Lakeshore Theatre, Famous Door, New Tuners, Riverfront Theatre, The Lamb's Theatre-NY, and dozens of productions at Chicago-area high schools and colleges. Her performance credits include roles at Marriott Theatre, Peninsula Players, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, Fulton Opera, Chicago Dramatists, American Eagle, and Candlelight Playhouse. Linda has taught in the Theatre Departments at Loyola University and Columbia College Chicago.

**WILLIAM UNDERWOOD** (*Musical Director*) has been the resident music director, conductor, and orchestrator at Theatre at the Center since 2007. He has received Joseph Jefferson Citations for original music and music direction. He has collaborated on nine original musicals, including: book, music, and lyrics for *Ready*, a love story set in Chicago in the days leading up to the Haymarket riot; music and lyrics for an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*; music for *The Devil in Disputanta*, a bluegrass musical set in depression-era Kentucky; *The Serpent's Lover*, set in Peru during the Cuscan

Indian revolt of the 18th century; and a comic operetta based on Shakespeare's writing about love called *Nothing But Love*. As a pianist he has played for Aretha Franklin, Diahann Carroll, Lillianne Montevecchi, Bobby Vinton, Tiny Tim, and numerous Chicago vocalists.

**ANN DAVIS** (*Scenic Designer and Head of Production*) also serves Theatre at the Center with Production Management and Technical Direction. Recent shows designed at TATC include: *The 39 Steps, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, The Beverly Hillbillies Musical* and *Plaid Tidings*. Apart from scenic design, her diverse interests include Industrial Technology, opera, illustration and murals. Her work has been seen on stage or on the walls of The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, Victory Gardens, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, The Apollo Theater, The Athenaeum, DePaul University Opera, Chamber Opera of Chicago and First Folio Theatre and on the air via MTV and VH-1. Some of her favorite projects have been interior murals in homes and buildings, and restorative projects in stone and metal. Ann has been forging relationships with Northwest Indiana's high schools and colleges to help their productions soar and to mentor their students. Under her leadership, TATC's Scene Shop serves as a resource for custom scenery builds for institutional and community projects. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatrical Design. She is grateful to Theatre at the Center's incredible team for many happy years. She sends much love to her family, and especially, husband David.

**BRENDA WINSTEAD** (*Costume Designer*) is proud to have designed more than 40 productions for Theatre at the Center! Her favorite TATC design credits include her Jeff Nominated designs for last spring's *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, the 2017 spring musical *Cabaret* and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Ring*