Sunset to Starlight

A Celebration of Musical Theatre… BLUEBARN Style

MUSIC DIRECTION BY **HAL FRANCE**

DIRECTED BY **SUSAN CLEMENT** AND **JILL ANDERSON**

DIGITAL PLAYBILL

MAY/JUNE 2021

BLUEBARN | 32 | Season of the Unknown

Season 32 marks a profound shift in perspective. This year we give focus to building on BLUEBARN's transformative programming and services, seeding the fires that will light our way for years to come.

A different kind of season awaits us.
A different kind of membership awaits you…

In these extraordinary times, we invite you to become caretakers of BLUEBARN's mission. We invite you to provoke thought, emotion, action, and change in our community. Your BLUEBARN membership is a commitment, not to a certain number of productions or nights of theatre, but to the BLUEBARN's essential work on and off the stage, our values, our art, and our artists.

Incomparable theatre and incandescent storytelling remain at the core of our work. For these wild times, we have imagined adventurous new ways to bring the power of story back into all our lives. We have also dreamed up better ways to harness your BLUEBARN membership to extend the reach of our art and sustain the lives of artists.

BLUEBARN is proud to announce a host of programs and programming that we hope will ignite and inspire you. We must acknowledge as we do so the very real uncertainty of the coming year. Our season accepts disruptions and adaptations to shifting circumstances as givens.

The mission stands. The work continues. Join us in lighting the fires that will guide us through this Season of the Unknown and into the future.

With gratitude,

Susan Clement-Toberer
Producing Artistic Director

"The future is in disorder.
A door like this has cracked open five or six times since we got up on our hind legs. It is the best possible time to be alive, when almost everything you thought you knew was wrong."
— *Tom Stoppard,* Arcadia

TRUBLU MEMBERSHIP SEASON HAPPENINGS:

- **Holiday Hootenanny** | Music, song, dance, story. For the longest nights, the warmest of fires… and joy to us all! | Dec 17th-20th
- **Marjorie Prime** | The great pause began March 17th. Our set still stands ready on our stage. We'll premiere as soon as it's safe.
- **Digital Access** | Live-streamed shows. Virtual Tours. Special events. The best seats in the house. Your own.
- **Radical Hospitality** | Arts access is a human right. BLUEBARN will offer pay-what-you-wish attendance for those facing economic barriers.
- **Artists Fund** | BLUEBARN is the only professional contemporary theatre in Omaha committed to a living wage for all its artists.
- **Out of the Blue** | A new path. Education. Touring. On the road. Online. Only from the BLUEBARN
- **Bonfire Series** | Five Extraordinary Works of Theatre. Dozens of Extraordinary Artists. The Shape of Things to Come.

  ———————

  - **R3³ | Sarah Brown after Shakespeare**
    Three actors. One monster. What would you sacrifice to overcome tyranny?
  - **For Black Trans Girls… | Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi**
    A choreopoem. A fantasia. Love and justice for a new generation.
  - **Escaped Alone | Caryl Churchill**
    One of the most revered living playwrights. A most deranged tea party.
  - **Before After | Knapman & Price**
    What if you had a second chance to get it right the first time? A new musical.
  - **Buffalo Women | Beaufield Berry**
    Juneteenth. Newfound freedom. New lives. A Black cowgirl musical comedy.

Anti-Racist Ethos | BLUEBARN owns that systemic racism is real and must be fought against wherever and however it shows up–in our community, in our theatre, in ourselves.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Working on this evening's show with my friends and collaborators Susan Clement, Jill Anderson, Mark Kurtz, Melanie Walters, our fabulous cast of artists, our orchestra, and the miraculous Blue Barn team has been a complete joy!

We all look forward to future Blue Barn seasons with musicals like A Chorus Line. In its place this May, we celebrate American musical theatre. We have selected songs from this rich anthology of American creativity with the special talents of our exceptional cast in mind.

For me, tonight's performance is a small step in multiple directions. We step simultaneously into a new normal and into a familiar place that celebrates our connection with each other through song, music, dance, and theatre.

For two years, I've served as Instructor of Musical Theatre for UNO Theatre, School of Music and the School of the Arts. In the process, I've seen the wealth of musical theatre talent that is thriving in our Nebraska schools, theatres, and communities. Along with celebrating the songwriting genius of Sondheim, Yazbek, Hamlisch, Kander and Ebb, Schwartz, Kitt and Yorkey, Ahrens and Flaherty, and so many others, tonight we celebrate the inspiration of blossoming talent. Our Song Spotlight will feature some of the outstanding young performers who have developed in arts programs around the city and state at the high school and college level. We thank the teachers that nurture them and challenge them to realize their dreams and potential.

Our country aspires towards the concept of equal access and limitless possibilities for all people. This is achieved when we harness and embrace the talents of each and every person! The BLUEBARN Theatre is committed to doing just that. It has been a wonderful organization for me personally, and we are honored at this moment in time to celebrate with you.

Hal France

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings BLUEBARNers!

Welcome BACK. Who knew that one year ago, it would be this long before I would have the pleasure, the relief, of saying that? The inimitable actress Lynn Redgrave once said "I think the theatre is as essential to civilization as safe, pure water." I have to agree, but can also relate to this on a more personal note. Prior to the pandemic, I knew that theatre was a critical part of my life and my heart. But a few months in, it became clear that my need for live theatre - beauty, community, creativity, art - approximated my need for water. A basic need that could not quite be fulfilled by livestreams and podcasts. So, here we are dipping a toe in, and hoping this is the beginning of a path back to full scale production in this venue and all others where we can share community, love, emotion, and growth. Together, in person, once again.

And here's to the amazing minds that came together to design and construct the space that is the BLUEBARN. A space with such amazing adaptability that allows us to begin this journey back... around a bonfire.

Enjoy this wonderful series - I really can't wait to see you all again.

Devin

BLUEBARN THEATRE

PRESENTS

Sunset to Starlight

A Celebration of American Musical Theatre…BLUEBARN Style

Music Direction by **Hal France**
Directed by **Susan Clement** and **Jill Anderson**

— IN-PERSON —

May 20th-30th, 2021

— STREAMING —

May 28th-June 11th, 2021

This performance runs approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, with an intermission.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS.
The use of video, still or sound recording devices is strictly prohibited.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR MASKS ON

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Safety Procedures for BLUEBARN Patrons

At the BLUEBARN we are working to reopen as safely as possible. We are following CDC and State guidelines, and measures are being taken to ensure our Patrons, Artists and Staff's safety. We reserve the right to cancel any in person performance if the Douglas County COVID numbers exceed 10%.

Upon Arrival

Masks are required to be worn at all times including when inside the theater.

Cleaning Procedures

Hand sanitizer dispensers are available throughout the buildings.

The theatre, lobby and bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned before and after each performance for your safety. Doorknobs, railings, counter tops, and other common touch points are sanitized with increased frequency.

Social Distancing

Patrons are asked to be respectful of each other's personal space when entering and exiting the building, visiting the bar, and using the restrooms.

Digital Playbill

Digital playbills will now be available prior to opening night. Printed playbills will no longer be provided.

Concessions

Shield guards are installed in areas where guests and staff come into close contact such as the box office and bar.

Additional Time for Seating

We realize these precautions may mean that it will take additional time to be seated. We thank you for your patience and consideration.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out at (402) 345-1576,
or bluebarn.org/contact.

ACCESS

Due to the extraordinary circumstances and restrictions at play during the ongoing pandemic, many elements of our access initiatives are currently suspended or altered.

These adjustments are reflected in *italics* below.

BLUEBARN Theatre is committed to ensuring that our boundary-breaking theatre is accessible to everyone. We are committed to easing cost barriers for young professionals and students. We are committed to providing low-cost, last-minute opportunities for anyone to see a show. We are committed to recognizing those that give the most in service to our community.

BLUCrew Program for Young Patron Development

Anyone 35 or under is eligible. Members receive rush pricing for most Sunday and Thursday shows throughout the season with no upfront cost. *Due to capacity restrictions, BLUCrew members will receive special pricing for digital access to our productions.*

Rush Tickets

Every unsold seat. Every show. $20. Available only at the box office, 45 minutes before curtain. If we're not sold out, you have a new way in. *Rush tickets are unavailable this season.*

Nebraska Educators, Healthcare Workers, and Military Personnel

$5 off all tickets. All the time.

Captioning will be available for virtual performances upon request.
To request captioning, please contact Barry at bcarman@bluebarn.org.

A sign-language interpreted performance is offered for every mainstage production on the second Friday show, generously supported by the Nebraska Arts Council. *For pandemic impacted performances, ASL services will be provided upon request.*

Audio enhancement devices are available for the hearing impaired for mainstage productions. *Bonfire Series productions will be miked and amplified.*

The BLUEBARN Theatre offers an **Audio Description Service** for the blind and visually impaired. Audio description provided by Outlook Nebraska. These performances fall on the third Thursday of each run, when requested. *Audio description will be unavailable for the Bonfire Series.*

To request additional accommodation or for more information,
please call (402)345-1576 or email Barry at bcarman@bluebarn.org.

National New Play Network
Associate Member

***BLUEBARN THEATRE** is an Associate Member of the **National New Play Network**.*

***NNPN** is an alliance of professional theatres across the country who are evolving and exploring the frontiers of the American theatre. **BLUEBARN** has long been Omaha's home for professional contemporary theatre, bringing diverse perspectives, new voices, and provocative work to our community. **The National New Play Network** has become the most powerful, growing force in new play development, production, and promotion in the nation.*

***BLUEBARN** is committed to seeking out collaborative relationships with other **NNPN** member theatres, producing and supporting the work of the most dynamic emerging voices in contemporary playwrighting, and promoting local artists on a platform with national reach.*

To support New Play Development at the BLUEBARN contact Barry at bcarman@bluebarn.org. To learn more about NNPN and their programs visit www.nnpn.org

MUSICAL THEATRE MINOR.

MAJOR PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES.

Omaha is our campus and our stage. Our students get hands-on opportunities the day they step on stage. From here our alumni are designers, actors, directors, choreographers, stage managers and talent coordinators involved in the management and production of Broadway and theatrical venues across the nation.

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ENGAGE

Engagement events are FREE and available to stream.

BLUEBARN CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

Rising Stars

Hal France interviews our Song Spotlight Performers!

Available May 26th @ 7pm CST

A BLUEBARN *CROSSROADS EVENT*

Masters of Musical Theater

Join Hal France in conversation with some of the region's finest musical theater educators.

Available May 30th @ 7pm CST

***CROSSROADS EVENTS* and *CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS* are all available via our YouTube Channel:**

Musical Theater: A Love Story
an interview with Hal France

Shakespeare, Sages, and Seers
expert young artists discuss R3[3]

The Prime of Life
with the cast and crew of Marjorie Prime

Being Human
featuring Susie Collins, Jannette Davis, and Dan Whelan

Imagining New Ways of Being
featuring Dane Figueroa Edidi and Kat MacHolmes

Creative Conversations: For Black Trans Girls…
featuring Dominique Morgan and Dane Figueroa Edidi

Escaped Together
featuring the playwrights of GPTC Commoners Program

A special thanks to our Bonfire Series Community Partners:

Black and Pink, k+r strategies, UNO Theatre, Great Plains Theater Commons, and the Out of the Blue Program

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The BLUEBARN invites you to join us in practicing an acknowledgement of the land, a baseline step in recognizing the effects of colonization and anti-Indigeneity. We invite you to draw your awareness to your physical relationship to the earth, from wherever you are joining us today, if possible by making direct contact or grounding yourself in whatever way is accessible to you in this moment.

We acknowledge that the land on which we find ourselves is occupied territory. This is true of anywhere we find ourselves or gather in the United States. It is the traditional land and ancestral home to Native American, Indigenous, and First Nations peoples. The BLUEBARN is located on the unceded territory of the Umo^{n}ho^{n} ("umAHhah") and Ochéthi Šakówin, in colonized Omaha, NE. We invite you give focus to and honor the people whose lands were forcibly taken from their stewardship. *(Use this website, www.native-land.ca, to discover the occupied native land on which you reside or currently find yourself.)*

We also invite you to draw your awareness to the way we are connecting in these times, virtually, digitally. The BLUEBARN recognizes that our internet-based activities use technology and equipment not available to many Indigenous communities and communities of color today. This technology and equipment have a negative impact on the environment. Climate change has a disproportionately negative impact on indigenous communities and communities of color worldwide.

We invite you to join us in recognizing these truths, and the tensions they bring up, as well as our shared power and responsibility to radically re-imagine and boldly co-create a different world.

As we recognize our collective participation in the ongoing process of colonization, we invite you to take a step within the next week that furthers your education about the Indigenous peoples of your region and how you can combat anti-Indigeneity… and share it with another person.

This acknowledgement was developed in community with our partners k+r strategies, a local anti-racism and anti-oppression firm, and is rooted in their practice whenever they gather.

BLUEBARN will continue to refine and build on this practice as we all collectively journey toward equity and justice. Below please find further resources for exploration and ways to connect with the peoples of the native lands where the BLUEBARN is located.

RESOURCES

A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment
nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/

A Truthful Indigenous Peoples' Day
usdac.us/news/indigenouspeoplesday

Make Connections with People
facebook.com/omahatribeofnebraska
facebook.com/IllumiNativeOrg
facebook.com/nuihc

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska: www.omahatribe.com

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska: www.poncatribe-ne.org

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THANK YOU!

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LABEL INFORMATION FOR SUNSET TO STARLIGHT SONGS

"Color and Light"
Jesse Wohlman & Bailey Carlson
Sunday in the Park with George, 1999
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

"Travel Song"
Nik Whitcomb & Jordan Smith
Shrek, 2008
Music by Jeanine Tesori
Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

"If He Hadn't But He Did"
Melanie Walters
Two on the Aisle, 1951
Music by Jule Styne
Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

"Sarah Brown Eyes"
Nik Whitcomb & Nina Washington
Ragtime, 1997
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

"My Psychopharmacologist and I"
Leanne Hill Carlson, Jesse Wohlman,
Matthew Bailey, & Full Ensemble
Next to Normal, 2009
Music by Tom Kitt
Lyrics by Brian Yorkey

"She Used to Be Mine"
Bailey Carlson
Waitress, 2016
Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

"Scrap"
Matthew Bailey, Jordan Smith, Nik Whitcomb,
& Jesse Wholman
The Full Monty, 2000
Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek

"At the Ballet"
Leanne Hill Carlson, Nina Washington,
& Bailey Carlson
A Chorus Line, 1975
Music by Marvin Hamlisch
Lyrics by Edward Kleban

Song Spotlight Performance

"Blow Gabriel"
Full Ensemble
Anything Goes, 1934
Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

INTERMISSION

"Wilkommen/Two Ladies"
Matthew Bailey, Leanne Hill Carlson,
& Bailey Carlson
Cabaret, 1966
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

"I Do Miracles"
Nina Washington & Jill Anderson
Kiss of the Spider Woman, 1993
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

"Cell Block Tango"
Melanie Walters, Bailey Carlson, Leanne Hill Carlson,
& Nina Washington
Chicago, 1975
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

"Agony"
Jesse Wohlman & Jordan Smith
Into the Woods, 1987
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim,
Jill Anderson & Matthew Bailey

"Easy Street"
Matthew Bailey, Jill Anderson & Bailey Carlson
Annie, 1977
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin

"For Good"
Leanne Hill Carlson & Melanie Walters
Wicked, 2003
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

"Answer Me"
Full Ensemble
The Band's Visit, 2017
Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek

"Endless Night"
Nik Whitcomb & Full Ensemble
The Lion King, 1997
Music by Elton John
Lyrics by Tim Rice

"Let The Sun Shine"
Full Ensemble
Hair, 1968
Music by Galt McDermot
Lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado

FEATURING

(in alphabetical order)

Jill Anderson
Matt Bailey
Bailey Carlson
Leanne Hill Carlson
Jordan Smith
Melanie Walters
Nina Washington
Nik Whitcomb
Jesse Wohlman

MUSICIANS

Hal France ..... Keyboards
Mark Kurtz ..... Keyboards
Tomm Roland ..... Percussion
Daryl White ..... Trumpet (Blow Gabriel)

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

Musical Director ..... **Hal France**
Directors ..... **Susan Clement, Jill Anderson**
Choreographer ..... **Melanie Walters**
Assistant Music Director ..... **Mark Kurtz**
Set Designers ..... **Susan Clement, Jill Anderson**
Costume Designer ..... **Denise Ervin**
Lighting Designer ..... **Homero Vela**
Director of Production & Props Designer ..... **Amy Reiner**
Technical Director & Sound Designer ..... **Bill Kirby**
Stage Manager ..... **Chris Hernandez**
Scenic Artist ..... **Craig Lee**
Carpenter ..... **Al Marcault**
Electrician ..... **Gina Leonardo**
Spotlight Operators ..... **Mindy Cotner, Johan Leclerc**

STAFF

Susan Clement-Toberer
Producing Artistic Director

Amy Reiner
Director of Production
Propmaster

Barry Carman
Community Engagement
Dramaturgy/Rentals

Heather Hoyt
Development Director

Bill Kirby
Resident Creative and Technical Director

Tricia Cottrell
Bookkeeper

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Jim McKain
Laura Peet Erkes
Michael Walenta
Susan Clement-Toberer (ex-officio)

SONG SPOTLIGHT PERFORMERS

Brett Ashley
— She/Her

Danny Denenberg
— He/Him

Isabel Gott
— She/Her

Julian Robert Hinrichs
— He/Him

Stella Clark-Kaczmarek
— She/Her

Wayne Hudson
— He/Him

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— She/Her

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CAST

Jill Anderson – She / Her (Performer/Director)

Jill has had a long career in the arts working primarily as a singer, actor, director and educator. Her performance career has spanned the United States with theatre and concert appearances in venues as varied as the Library of Congress in Washington DC to an abandoned train station in Omaha, Nebraska. Besides professional theatre, concert and cabaret work, Jill has acted as Artistic Director for a literary festival, recorded four CDs of Irish folk music, and is currently directing a documentary film, 48 STARS, that examines the WWII era through the testimony of those who lived it. Jill also directed Morozko, a play she wrote with based on Russian folklore, through the Ollie Webb Center, a non-profit organization serving individuals with developmental disabilities. It was presented at the Scottish Rite building in Omaha, in the fall of 2019.

Matt Bailey – He / They

Matt is a multi-hyphenate creative living in Omaha by way of Springfield, NE. He is delighted to be back at the BLUEBARN after some time away from the stage. Favorite credits include Telly in *Godspell* with the Lofte Community Theatre, Adam/Felicia in *Pricilla Queen of the Desert* and Ensemble in *Heathers: the* Musical with the BLUEBARN Theatre. He has a degree in Fine Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a freelance graphic designer who specializes in branding, video, and illustration for entrepreneurs, small business, and nonprofits. You can find his work at worksofanomaly.com

Bailey Carlson – She / Her

Bailey is thrilled to return to the BLUEBARN! She was recently in *The Last Five Years* at the Omaha Playhouse. Before COVID, she was traveling the world on Holland America Line, touring with the B.B. King All Star Band and YouTube sensation Post Modern Jukebox (PMJ). Bailey has been based out of New York for the past four years where she studied with The Barrow Group and the Growing Studio, and recently relocated back to Omaha due to the pandemic. In Bailey's free time, you can find her either walking her Borgi, Willie (a Corgi-Border Collie), knitting, or watching every single David Attenborough documentary. Past productions in Omaha include *All Shook Up*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *Footloose*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Reefer Madness*, *Hedwig & the Angry Inch*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Quilters*, and the 2006 production of *Ragtime*. www.itsbaileycarlson.com

Leanne Hill Carlson – She / Her

Leanne is very excited to return to the BLUEBARN after recently being seen as Halina/The Prime in *Indecent*. Some of her other favorite roles include *Grounded* (The Pilot), *Murder Ballad* (Sara), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Uncle Vanya* (Elena), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stella), *Mary Poppins* (Mary Poppins), *The Last Five Years* (Cathy), *Little Women* (Meg), Opera Omaha's *The Mikado* (*Pitti-Sing)*, and *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods). She is also passionate about new, local theatre and has been involved in many projects locally including the Great Plains Theatre Conference, *One Way to Mars, The Break,* and *The Octopus Play*. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from Sam Houston State University and her Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is a Physician Assistant and co-owner of Finesse Advanced Medical Aesthetics and proud mom of Henry and Nora.

Jordan the Ninja – He / Him

Known to many as "Jordan The Ninja." Jordan is a true poet of the fine arts. Jordan loves to sing, dance, and whistle his way through his extraordinary life. He loves teach swing dancing, has appeared on live television, both dancing, and singing/songwriting. His work in the film & theatre industry have rendered him both an award winning stage actor and filmmaker. His film *As Thick As Thieves* played with the Omaha Film Festival and the Dundee Theater/Filmstreams. His musical career has gained him the experience of performing in Carnegie Hall (NYC). Jordan took 2020 on by creating a new avenues, recording music/videos for people to enjoy online. Jordan has appeared as Donkey in *Shrek* (OCP), Alex the Lion in *Madagascar* (The Rose Theatre), Booker T. Washington in *Ragtime* (OCP), Anthony in the dynamic *I and You* here at the BLUEBARN, and many more! Jordan is proud to be back as a member of *Sunset to Starlight*!

Instgram: @Jordan_TheNinja

Melanie Walters – She / Her (Performer/Choreographer)

As a theatrical choreographer, Melanie's work has been seen in local productions of *Spamalot*, *Young Frankenstein, The Fantasticks, Legally Blonde, Altar Boyz, Little Women, Caroline, or Change, Evil Dead: The Musical, The Producers,* and *Sister Act*. As a performer, favorite roles include Eva Peron *(Evita)*, Aida *(Aida),* Velma Kelly *(Chicago)*, Cassie *(A Chorus Line),* Judy *(9 to 5)*, Lucy Harris *(Jekyll and Hyde),* Mary Magdalene *(Jesus Christ Superstar)*, The Narrator *(Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat),* and the Lady of the Lake *(Spamalot)*. At the BLUEBARN, her choreography has been seen in productions of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert, A Very Die Hard Christmas,* and *Indecent*. Many thanks to her parents for making this project logistically possible, and to Leo, for loaning his mom to the BLUEBARN for the month.

Nina Brianne Washington – She / Her

Nina is delighted to be making her debut with the BLUEBARN. Her most recent production was in the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Nina studied film acting at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and expects to graduate from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2022. Nina hopes to further her career in law school.

Nik Whitcomb – He / Him

Nik is thrilled to be back at the Barn, having just returned to Omaha after working as a casting director for theatre, television, and film in Chicago, IL. Previous BLUEBARN credits include *Well* as a part of the Out of the Blue series and portraying the title role in *Little Nelly's Naughty Noel* in the inaugural holiday production in the BLUEBARN's current space. Currently, Nik is the Broadway at The Rose Manager at The Rose Theater and continues to work as a freelance actor, director, producer, and educator while creating his own content, including his online talk show THE COME UP with Nik Whitcomb. Recently Nik directed & co-choreographed *Ella Enchanted* at The Rose Theater, which won two Omaha Entertainment & Arts Awards (Outstanding Musical & Outstanding Choreography) and he appears in the indie film *I Used To Go Here*, which is available on Amazon Prime!

NikWhitcomb.com & THECOMEUPwithNikWhitcomb.com

Jesse Wohlman – He / Him

Jesse is a classically trained baritone and self-taught folk musician based in Omaha, Nebraska. He has performed in a range of projects from operatic world premieres to folk song revues and everything between. Jesse has performed works with the Steamboat Symphony, Opera Omaha, the Omaha Conservatory of Music, and is credited with composing music for an original children's play titled *Wynken, Blynken, and Nod* at the Rose Theater. Jesse holds a Masters in Vocal Performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2016) and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Nebraska Wesleyan University (2013). He is a core member of the semi-professional vocal group Résonance and is an artist-in-residence at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Jesse is also an instructor of voice at SNJ Studios, Doane University, and Concordia University, Nebraska.

THANK YOU!

Al Marcault
Jim Othuse
The Omaha Community Playhouse

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

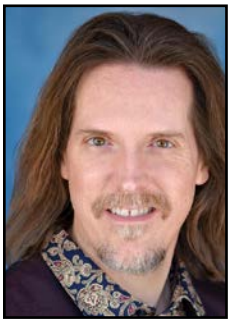
Hal France – He / Him – Music Director/Keyboard

Hal is a faculty member of the College of Communication Fine Arts and Media and the Instructor of Musical Theatre at UNO. For the past two seasons he has dedicated all of his time and professional energies towards making UNO a place for musical theatre training. Partnering with the BLUEBARN Theatre on this show with its emphasis on young Nebraska talent is a dream opportunity for him!

During a forty-year professional career, Hal France has led organizations and performed with opera companies and symphony orchestras around the United States and abroad. He has completed tenures as Executive Director of KANEKO (2008–2012), Artistic Director of Opera Omaha (1995–2005), and Music Director of the Orlando Philharmonic (1999-2006).

His conducting credits include the Houston Grand Opera, Royal Philharmonic, National Symphony, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Richmond Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Chautauqua Opera, Lake George Opera, Minnesota Opera, Cleveland Opera, Opera Carolina, Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Festival of New Jersey, Hawaii Opera Theater, Utah Symphony and Opera, Mobile Opera, Tulsa Opera, Portland Opera, Kentucky Opera, Orlando Opera, Lawrence University, Northwestern University and the Royal Opera of Stockholm.

Hal's relationship with the BLUEBARN Theatre and Susan Clement began with the BLUEBARN Music Festivals of 2005 and 2006. Those festivals featured many of Omaha's outstanding performing artists including the super talented Jill Anderson. His love affair with the BLUEBARN continued with 33 Variations and Indecent. The coming season brings a collaboration with the BLUEBARN's Producing Artistic Director Susan Clement as she stages Opera Omaha's new production of Sweeney Todd in the winter of 2022. Hal looks forward to returning to his former company and working with Susan.



Mark Kurtz – He / Him – Assistant Music Director/Keyboard

Mark is a composer, pianist, and music director. Originally from North Dakota, he has lived and worked in Omaha since 2000. He has become known for being adept in an unusually broad spectrum of genres, including both art music and popular music. A sought-after performer and inventive creator, his work can be found in concert halls, churches, theaters, and convention centers.

His colorful, multi-stylistic compositions have been performed at GALA international choral festivals (Miami in 2008 and Montréal in 2004), the 2018 American Guild of Organists (AGO) national convention in Kansas City; regional conventions (Nebraska Choral Directors Association in 2016 and AGO - Southeast - in 2011), many churches and community choruses from Washington, D.C. (2014 and 2012) to St. Paul, MN (2017) to Los Altos, CA (2006), and in his local vicinity of Omaha by organizations like Gallup (2017 and 2016), Circle Theater (2017), Résonance (2015, 2016, and 2018), the American Guild of Organists (hymn

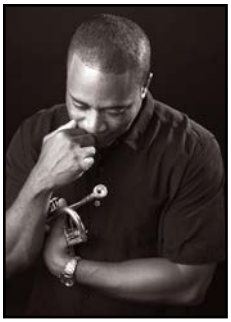
festivals 2016 and 2015), Horizons of Faith (2011), and the River City Mixed Chorus (2014, 2008, and 2007). A choral piece was featured on the radio broadcast «Going Beyond Words.» (2012)

Besides being the music director at First United Methodist Church (Omaha) and Associate Director and Collaborative Pianist for Résonance (a professional choral ensemble), he frequently works with the Omaha Symphony as rehearsal pianist and substitute pianist/organist for concerts. He frequently receives commissions for new work, from organizations such as the Willa Cather Foundation (2017), the Anti Defamation League (2012), Why Arts (2011), and the River City Mixed Chorus (2014 and 2008), as well as many churches and individuals, for example, poet Fred Zydek (2013) and Omaha Symphony members Craig and Mary Bircher (2012). He has received numerous scholastic, performance, and composition awards, most recently being named the 2018 winner of the Marilyn Mason/AGO Award in Organ Composition, for his "Re-Formations (after Bach)."

www.markkurtzmusic.com

Tomm Roland – He / Him – Percussion

Tomm holds degrees from CSU, Sacramento and SUNY Stony Brook and also studied in India as a Fulbright Scholar. He has performed on four of the seven continents (saving Antarctica for last!) and has given clinics, masterclasses, and conference presentations throughout North America and Europe. Tomm is also credited on several recordings. Dr. Roland is the Assistant Director for the School of Music at UNO where he teaches courses on world music, rock history, and The Beatles. His textbook *The Beatles: A Magical History Tour in 15 Songs* was published in 2019. When not being professorial he can be heard hitting things around the Midwest, freelancing regularly with touring Broadway shows, area orchestras, and his Van Halen and Ozzy Osbourne tribute bands. Tomm is an artist for Zildjian cymbals and Vic Firth sticks and mallets.



Dr. Darryl White – Trumpet

Darryl is associate professor of trumpet at the Glenn Korff School of Music. White's performance experiences include a wide range of idioms. He has appeared as guest soloist with the Omaha Symphony, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Mesa Chamber Orchestra, Grand Junction Symphony, Lake Forest Chamber Orchestra, Roaring Fork Jazz Festival, University of Nebraska Faculty Brass Quintet, the University Faculty Jazz Quartet and many other solo appearances and guest clinicians with college jazz bands and orchestras across the country.

A native of Warren, Ohio, White has been playing trumpet since the age of 9. Before his current position at the University of Nebraska, White's first college teaching experience was at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colo., in 1993 where he taught for two years. White holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Youngstown State University, a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Colorado. While in Denver, he was a member of the Aries Brass

Quintet-in residence at University of Denver-Lamont School of Music and the Denver Brass. At Lamont he was Instructor of Trumpet and also participated with the Faculty Jazz Quintet.

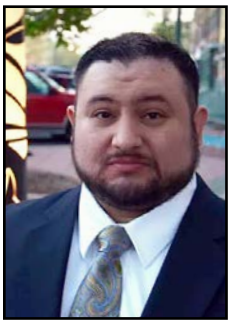
Dr. White has served with numerous high profile organizations including serving as an IAJE Resource Member, IAJE Regional Coordinator, a panelist judge for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), Nebraska Arts Council Member, and Director of the internationally known Stan Getz/Clifford Brown Jazz Quintet.

White can be heard on several recordings including performances with the Denver Brass, "Rhapsody in Red, White &Blue" on Centaur Records, 1997; and "America, The Golden Dream" on Delos International, 1996. He can also be heard on the Capri Record Label with tenor saxophonist Keith Oxman. White can be heard on the 1999 release, "Hard Times", featuring jazz great Joe Bonner and a 1997 release entitled "Out on Whim".

White currently has three solo recordings released. The first is a 1999 release entitled, "Ancient Memories." The second is a 2002 release entitled "In the Fullness of Time" which features former ECM recording artist/pianist, Art Lande. This release features several original compositions including "Lil I" featured on the PBS special "New Beginnings." The third is a 2007 release entitled, "Resonance." "Resonance" features original classical compositions of composers Art Lande and Bruce Williamson.

Denise Ervin – Costume Design

This is Denise's second production with the BLUEBARN Theatre. Denise has been working for the past 30 years as a custom clothing and costume designer and has her degree in Fashion Design from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. Serving as the Head Designer for the Omaha Community Playhouse for over 20 years, she designed 10 shows per season, as well as many seasons with The Nebraska Theatre Caravan. *A Christmas Carol*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *Evita*, *Chicago*, and *Into the Woods* are just a few of the many productions she has had the honor of designing. Denise has lived in Los Angeles where she worked as a head designer and product developer for Adidas. She was responsible for the design of Marilyn Quayle's Inaugural Ball Gown in 1989 and served as the Official Couturier for the Aksarben Coronation and Ball in 1992 and in 2019. Currently, Denise runs her own business specializing in high end custom apparel and costumes.



Homero Vela – He / Him – Lighting Design

Homero returns to the BLUEBARN Theatre, where he previously designed *An Act of God* and *A Piece of My Heart*. His most recent work includes lighting designs for the Union for Contemporary Art, The Circle Theater, and Westside High School, and production management for *Walk the Night*, BLUEBARN'S immersive Shakespeare project. Homero received his B.A. and J.D. from Creighton University.

Chris Hernandez – He / Him - Stage Manager

This is Chris's second show with the BLUEBARN Theatre. He just recently finished working on *Marjorie Prime* and is thrilled to have live performances back! Previously, he worked as a stage manager at Midland University on *Legally Blonde, Once Upon a Mattress*, and *The Miracle Worker*, and received the Outstanding Technical Arts Student of the Year as a senior. Before that he toured as a stage manager with The Young Americans, both nationally and internationally. Chris is originally from Oakland, California, and is a huge Bay Area sports fan!

Craig Lee – He / Him – Scenic Artist

Mr. Lee has lived in the Midtown area of Omaha, Nebraska since 1985. His work has been featured on Omaha theatre stages including the Omaha Community Playhouse, BLUEBARN Theatre, Brigit Saint Brigit Theatre Company, Opera Omaha, Orpheum Theater, the Rose Theatre, Creighton University, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival. His work has appeared in the motion pictures *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*, *About Schmidt*, *Up in the Air*, and *Lucky*, and in many homes and businesses throughout the Omaha area. He has been featured in numerous publications and has worked with the finest designers in the area on countless theatrical productions. Craig has done commissioned drawings, paintings, indoor and large scale outdoor murals, production design, signage and an array of specialty finishes and visual effects, in addition to teaching scenic painting at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. He is especially proud of his association with the BLUEBARN Theatre and happy to be a small part of their 32nd season.

RESIDENT CREATIVES

Susan Clement – She / Her – Director and Producing Artistic Director

Susan has served as BLUEBARN's Producing Artistic Director since 2002. She has directed numerous productions at the BLUEBARN, beginning with *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* in 1993 and most recently *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *The City in the City in the City* and *Every Brilliant Thing*. Awards include TAG Award – Best Director: *Our Town* (2015), *Spring Awakening* (2012), *Three Tall Women* (2011), *The Goat or Who is Sylvia* (2009), *A Piece of my Heart* (2003); Best Drama: *The Christians* (2016), *33 Variations* (2014), *Bug* (2012), *Rabbit Hole* (2010), *The Dresser* (2006); OEA Awards – Best Director: *Our Town* (2015), 39 Steps (2013), *Spring Awakening* (2012), *Seascape* (2008); Best Play - *Our Town* (2015), *Red* (2013), *The Pillowman* (2006). Recent award-winning shows include *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and *Silent Sky*. As director of the BLUEBARN, Susan alongside Shannon Walenta (Managing Director at the time) spearheaded the capital campaign that enabled the BLUEBARN to build its own stand-alone theater, and saw the dream fulfilled when BLUEBARN moved into its new home at 10th and Pacific in 2015. Susan holds a BFA in Theatre/Film from the State University of New York at Purchase Conservatory.

Barry Carman - He / Him – Resident Dramaturg and Director of Engagement

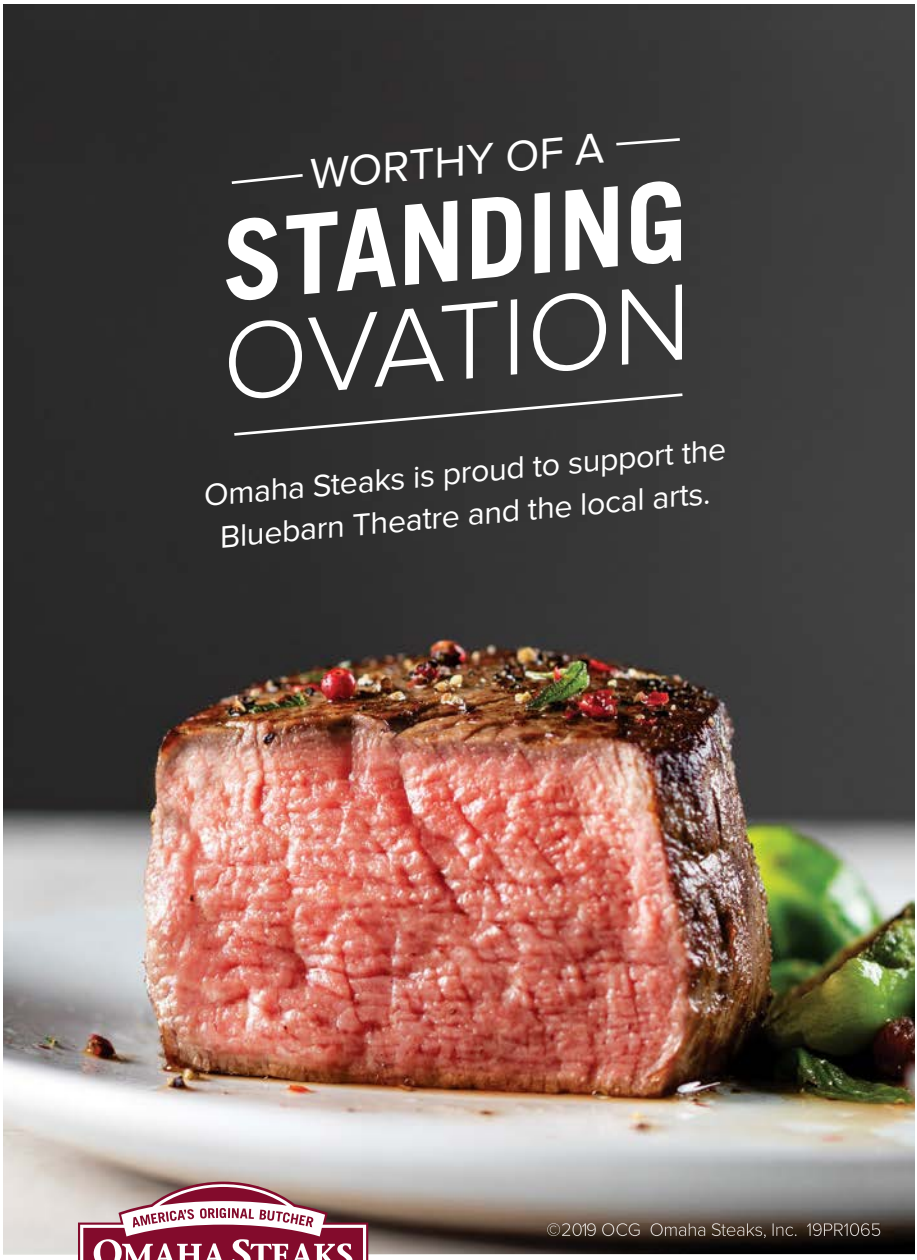
Barry's affiliation with the BLUEBARN began in 2002, as production dramaturg for *Arcadia*. He has since served as dramaturg for a host of BLUEBARN productions, counting *The Pillowman*, *The Christians*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Hir*, and *Venus in Furs* among his favorites. In 2004, he co-founded BLUEBARN'S Witching Hour, a collaborative ensemble for which he wrote, performed, and directed for five years. In 2009, Barry joined Out of Hand Theater in Atlanta where he conceived and directed *The SHOW!*, and developed *Without Which Nothing*. In 2017, he joined the BLUEBARN staff as Resident Dramaturg and Director of Engagement. He directed BLUEBARN's productions of *Wakey, Wakey* and *I and You, Natural Shocks* and *The Trump Card* for BLUEBARN'S Out of the Blue Series, and *8 Songs for a Mad King* for the Omaha Under the Radar Festival. He was most recently onstage in the BLUEBARN's production of *The Woodsman.* He holds a B.A. in Theatre Studies from Emory University.

Amy Reiner – She / Her - Director of Production and Props Designer

Amy Reiner joined the BLUEBARN in 2012 as Production Manager and Properties Master. Amy previously worked for 12 years as Properties Master at The Omaha Community Playhouse. Prior to that, she freelanced in Los Angeles in the fields of film and television. She holds a BFA in technical theatre with an emphasis on Scenic and Lighting Design from The University of Nebraska Lincoln.

Bill Kirby – He / Him – Technical Director and Sound Designer

Bill joined the BLUEBARN staff as the Resident Creative and Technical Director in 2019, after working as a freelance designer for the two previous seasons. Favorite BLUEBARN productions include *Venus in Fur*, *Wakey, Wakey*, *Indecent* (OEA Award for Outstanding Sound Design), and *Red Summer* (OEA Award). Before relocating to Omaha in 2017, Bill spent 10 years as the resident sound designer and head sound engineer at Princeton University's McCarter Theatre Center. Bill's favorite McCarter productions include sound designing the original workshop production of Danai Gurira's *Eclipsed* and serving as the production sound engineer for the world premier of Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, which would go on to win the 2013 Tony Award for best play. Kirby has worked nationally and internationally, including productions at the New York Fringe Festival, LA's Kirk Douglas Theatre, and the Wuzhen Grand Theatre in China. Bill is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.



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July 1, 2019 – May 14, 2021

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At BLUEBARN we believe that artists should be honored for their work not only with applause but with a paycheck. We believe that every theatre artist deserves to be paid fairly for their work, and we are committed to providing payment to every actor or artist working in our theatre. To honor this commitment, BLUEBARN has established **The Artists' Fund** to support the creative spirits who help continue and propel the life of the BLUEBARN.

We recognize the following donors who have made contributions to The Artists' Fund, and we'd like to add your name to this list! If you would like to contribute, please email Heather Hoyt at hhoyt@bluebarn.org, or donate online at www.bluebarn.org.

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