

Marblehead Little Theatre presents

A World Premier

# The Great Gatsby

An American Musical

based on the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Book & Lyrics

Fred Anthony Marco

Music

Frank Schiro

Additional Music by Thom Smoker and David Flowers

Orchestrations by David Flowers

Additional Orchestration by Hector Saint-Hilaire

Produced by

Doug Hill   Steve Black   Andrew Barnett

Direction

Alexandra Dietrich

Musical Direction

David Flowers

Choreographer

Will Fafard

Set Design

Jeremy Barnett

Light Design

Greg Mancusi-Ungaro

Costume Design

Laura Dillon

Sound Design

Greg Dana

## Director's Note

Time and water are inextricably linked to one another.

We can never stand in the same spot of a river twice, just as we cannot return to a moment in time and have all involved, including ourselves, remain unchanged by what has transpired. These are central themes that we see in each of the main characters in “The Great Gatsby” - a desire to hold on to something from the past that no longer exists. The water separating the mansions of Daisy and Gatsby shimmers with the green light at the end of the dock and connects them. For Gatsby, a rippling hope that leads to a love he never stopped believing in, and for Daisy, a reawakening of a love kept paused, dormant, and previously discarded. While we now know that the famous line written into this novel by Fitzgerald referencing that the best thing a girl can be in this world is a “beautiful little fool” was originally said by Fitzgerald’s wife, Zelda, we can see how it resonated with him in his creations Daisy, Myrtle, and Jordan - all of whom choose to limit their own view of the world for self-interest and protection, refusing to see a larger picture of their own situation and impact on others. In our unreliable narrator, Nick Caraway, we see something different: action by inaction. This, paired with a blinded belief in Gatsby, refrains from stopping abhorrent actions of Tom, Daisy, and Jordan, ultimately leading to a tragic ending for all involved in this one short, gin-filled summer.

In this adaptation, Nick begins to recount from just two years after the events of 1922. His narration paints for us that we are only a few years out from his and Gatsby’s years in the trenches during the Great War. At every moment of this story, there is a potential catalytic event that begins a domino cascade of repercussions, both romance-filled and devastating – which moment could have been prevented? And how much of this burden falls to Nick Caraway for reuniting Daisy Buchanan and Jay Gatsby?

Please enjoy this World Premiere adaptation of “The Great Gatsby” and allow yourself to be transported back in time to the star-filled skies and floating, dropped waists of the 1920’s as we suspend time for just a moment to savor the what-if’s and what-never-could-be’s.

~Alexandra Dietrich

## Playwright's / Composer's Note

Like countless other Americans, Frank and I were, and remain to be, gobsmacked by the majesty and grandeur of F. Scott Fitzgerald's use of language in *The Great Gatsby*. So, it was with reverence that Frank and I endeavored to make his characters sing.

The great American art form—the musical—allows space like no other medium to showcase the inner lives of characters. Throughout the writing process, we strove to “take the side of” some of the most harshly judged characters in American literature. But primarily we wrote to deliver a nourishing evening of Theatre, the kind that has besotted us throughout our lives.

We hope you find that rediscovering these characters delivers the kind of satisfying time in the Theatre that we've come to treasure.

~**Fred Anthony Marco & Frank Schiro**

## Production Staff

Producers . . . . .	Andrew Barnett, Steve Black, Doug Hill
Executive Producer . . . . .	Emily Black
Director and Musical Staging . . . . .	Alexandra Dietrich
Music Director . . . . .	David Allen Flowers
Choreographer . . . . .	William Fafard
Stage Manager . . . . .	Katie Meuse
Scenic Designer . . . . .	Jeremy Barnett
Lighting Designer . . . . .	Greg Mancusi-Ungaro
Sound Designer . . . . .	Greg Dana
Costume Designer . . . . .	Laura Dillon
Set Construction . . . . .	Andrew Barnett, Lou Schoenthal, Dale Perry
Sound Engineer . . . . .	Holly Murphy
Scenic Painter . . . . .	Alicia Cohen
Lighting/Stage Crew . . . . .	Mimi Fowler
Stage Crew . . . . .	Anthony Lombardi
Technical Director . . . . .	Andrew Barnett

## Cast

Nick Caraway . . . . .	Keith Robinson
James Gatz/Jay Gatsby . . . . .	James White
Daisy Buchanan . . . . .	Michelle Moran
Jordan Baker . . . . .	Erin Anderson
Tom Buchanan . . . . .	Howie Reith
George Wilson . . . . .	AJ Macrina
Myrtle Wilson . . . . .	Ariel Sargent
Dan Cody, William, Ensemble & George understudy . . . . .	Aaron Swiniuch
Meyer Wolfsheim . . . . .	Mark Shasha
Henry Gatz, Geezer, Michaelis/Ensemble . . . . .	David Foye
Owl Eyes/Ensemble . . . . .	Evan Carr
Rodney, Bandleader, Police Officer, Ensemble . . . . .	Allan MacTaylor
Flapper, Ensemble & Dance Captain . . . . .	Erin Pelikhov
Evie, Flapper, Ensemble . . . . .	Lizzie Schwarze
Penny, Flapper, Ensemble & Dance Captain . . . . .	Abbie Burchard
Molls, Maid, Flapper, Ensemble . . . . .	Ashley Royer
Minnie, Molls, Flapper, Ensemble . . . . .	Bridget Saunders
Doris, Ensemble & Daisy understudy . . . . .	Julia Nelson
Sharleen, Ensemble & Myrtle understudy . . . . .	Stephanie Mann
Lucille, Ensemble . . . . .	Lauren Schultes
Pearl, Ensemble & Jordan understudy . . . . .	Meghan Lynch

## Orchestra

Piano/Conductor: David Allen Flowers

Clarinet: Shannon Leigh

Cello: Daniel Chouinard

Violin: Kavita Shankar

Violin (Sunday Matinees): Abigail Sykes

Drums: Héctor Saint-Hilaire

Additional Music by Thom Smoker and David Flowers

Orchestrations by David Flowers

Additional Orchestrations by Héctor Saint-Hilaire

# Scenes and Musical Numbers

## Act One

### Scene 1: **Long Island, New York, 1922 / Lake Michigan, 1909**

*"Have a Look/The Me I Was Born to Be"* . . Nick, James Gatz & Company

### Scene 2: **West Egg, Long Island, 1922**

*"Nick's Crossover #1"* . . . . . Nick

*"The Invitation"* . . . . . Rodney

### Scene 3: **Buchanan Home. East Egg, Long Island, 1922**

*"Now That You're Here With Me"* . . . . . Daisy

*"The Girl I Left Behind"* . . . . . Daisy

### Scene 4: **Gatsby's Mansion, West Egg, Long Island, 1922**

*"Time to Become Someone New!"* . . . . . Company

### Scene 5: **Wilson Garage, Queens, New York, 1922**

*"Tom Walks In"* . . . . . Myrtle

### Scene 6: **Long Island, 1922**

*"Nick's Crossover #2"* . . . . . Nick

### Scene 7: **A Cellar Restaurant on 42nd Street, NYC, 1922**

*"So Sad, Long Ago"* . . . . . Gatsby, Nick

### Scene 8: **Var Locations in NYC, 1922 / Louisville, KY., 1917, France, 1917**

*"In Louisville/Living Only for You"* . . Jordan, Daisy, Gatsby, and Company

### Scene 9: **Nick's House, West Egg, Long Island, 1922**

*"I Think That Could Happen Today"* . . . . . Gatsby, Daisy

### Scene 10: **Long Island, 1922**

*"Nick's Crossover #3"* . . . . . Nick

### Scene 11: **Var Locations in Long Island, Gatsby's Mansion, West Egg, 1922**

*"Party of the Season"* . . . . . Company

*"Oh, You Kid!"* . . . . . Company

## Act 2

### Scene 1: **Long Island Sound, 1922**

*"A Summer This Sweet"* ..... Gatsby, Daisy

### Scene 2: **Buchanan Home, 1922**

*"Nick's Crossover # 4"* ..... Nick

### Scene 3: **Wilson Garage, Queens, New York, 1922**

*"He's Watchin' Down on Me"* ..... George

*"Nick's Crossover #5"* ..... Nick

*"Myrtle's Warning"* ..... Myrtle

### Scene 4: **The Plaza Hotel, NYC, 1922**

*"Five Years"* ..... Tom, Gatsby

### Scene 5: **Wilson Garage, 1922**

*"Tom Walks In"* (reprise) ..... Myrtle

*"I'm a Dame and It's 1922"* ..... Flappers

### Scene 6: **Exterior of the Buchanan Home, 1922**

*"Limits"* ..... Nick

### Scene 7: **Rear Exterior of Gatsby's Mansion, 1922**

*"Pure"* ..... Gatsby

### Epilogue

*"Finale"* ..... Nick

## Special Thanks

Bryan Lussier for additional lighting instruments  
Marblehead Antiques for loaned set furniture  
Shea Twomey-Meuse for printing support  
Kimberly Grad, Abbot Public Library

## Biographies

**Erin Anderson** (Jordan Baker) is a versatile performing artist, equally at home on Musical Theater, Opera, and Concert stages. This is her first production with Marblehead Little Theater, and she is honored to originate the role of Jordan Baker in this World Premier. Favorite performances include The Witch "A Little Night Music" and Adele "Die Fledermaus" with NEMPAC Opera Project, Anne "A Little Night Music" with Arlington Friends of the Drama, Valencienne "The Merry Widow" with VOX New England, Cunegonde "Candide" and Sophie "Der Rosenkavalier" with Lowell House Opera, Despina "Cosi Fan Tutte", Mabel "Pirates of Penzance", and Laurie with Riverside Theater Works. Erin is a member of the professional choral ensemble at First Church in Boston, and Opera on Tap Boston.

**Andrew Barnett** (Producer/Technical Director) designed and built his first set at the Marblehead Middle (Village) School in 1992 for "Fiddler on the Roof". Since then he has built sets for Rebel Shakespeare Company, Endicott College, Gordon College, Opera Boston, Gloucester Stage, Roxbury Center for the Arts, MassJam, Perkins School for the Blind, Boston Center for the Arts, Mssng Lnks, and Marblehead Little Theatre. Andy was member of the production team as master carpenter, designer and technical director of Watertown based Revels, Inc. for more than 25 years, creating for The Summer Revels, Riversing and The Christmas Revels. His shows are dedicate to his wife Jessica, sons Nick and Jeremy and their spouses, and grandchildren Jacob, Vivienne and Rose, and to Marblehead Little Theater for providing great live theater to patrons of all ages.

**Jeremy Barnett** (Set Designer) is a Detroit-based scenic designer and installation artist. He has over 200 credits in opera, theatre and dance over a 20 year career. He is a founding member of the Amarant Design Collective. As an artist, Jeremy has exhibited in venues across the midwest and has had recent international exhibitions at the ComPeung Gallery in Thailand and the Cuevas De Rodeo artist community in Rojales, Spain. Jeremy holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and Boston University. He has studied the intersection of art and culture at institutions in Zimbabwe, Ukraine and Italy. He is the head of theatre department and at Oakland University outside of Pontiac, Michigan. More information can be found at [www.jeremybarnett.com](http://www.jeremybarnett.com)

**Emily Black** (Executive Producer) As Executive Producer at MLT, Emily has a history of producing gala events, most recently "MLT to Broadway, A Night With The Stars". A longtime supporter, she has worked in many capacities from props coordination to program ad coordinator. Emily's career experience includes serving as a marketing campaign manager for *Starburst*, where she now

serves as the Senior Manager, Demand Generation in Boston. She is a graduate of Union College.

**Steve Black** (Producer) is actively involved in the theater community as a director, arts and school administrator. As an educator, Steve served as a member of the musical theater faculty at the University of New Hampshire and Stonehill College, taught in local schools, and is currently the K-12 Director of Visual and Performing Arts for the Melrose Public Schools. He served as a teaching artist for the New York Public Schools, Boston Public Schools, Stoneham Theater, and Paper Mill Playhouse of NJ. His musical direction includes working for such organizations as The North Shore Music Theatre, MLT, Turtle Lane, and as an assistant music director for the Ogunquit Playhouse. Steve received an I.R.N.E. nomination for best director "Tommy", Spotlight Award for Best Music Director (NSMT), artist-in-residence awards (Salem Foundation for Public Education), METG State Finalist "The Giver", EMACT DASH nomination for Best Director "Oklahoma!", "Hairspray", "Next to Normal", "Les Miserables", "Mamma Mia!" (winner), "The Curious Incident...Night-time". Steve holds a Bachelor of Music degree from UNH and a Master's degree in Theatre from NYU.

**Abbie Burchard** (she/her/hers) (Penny, Flapper, Ensemble & Dance Captain) in Abbie is thrilled to be back at MLT this summer for this exciting new musical. Abbie was in Marblehead Little Theatre's 2022 summer musical, "Gypsy" as a female ensemble member and working with MLT has always been a pleasure. Some of her favorite past roles include Featured Dancer "Beauty and the Beast" (Norwood Theatre), Maria "Twelfth Night" (Eastern Nazarean College), Trinculo "The Tempest" (Salve Regina University), and Smee "Peter and the Starcatcher" (Salve Regina University). In her daily life Abbie works as an Outreach Worker, a Theatre Director, and a Dance Teacher. This story has been a joy to work on and Abbie looks forward to you all experiencing it! She would like to thank the wonderful friends she has made throughout her theatre journey (you know who you are). She would also like to thank her Mom, Sadie, Maisy, Bradley and Petra, for all of the time they have allowed her to spend on stage doing what she loves. She sends all her love and hopes you enjoy the performance as much as she has enjoyed the process of bringing it to life!

**Evan Carr** (Owl Eyes/Ensemble) is an actor pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance from Salem State. This is his first non-College role as an actor, and he is very excited about being apart of the premiere of "AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical"! His recent roles include Lodovico "Othello", and Kurt's Dad "Heathers". You can see him as Student Arkenholtz in Salem State's production of "Ghost Sonata" in the Fall.

**Greg Dana** (Sound Design) is very excited to be back working on this



production with this talented cast and production crew. He has been a technical director for MPS shows since 1978 and he has designed either the lights or sound for over 45 shows with MLT since 1988. Over the years he has been nominated for many EMACT set, lighting and sound design awards and he won for the MLT productions of "Mamma Mia!" (sound), "Sweet Charity" (lighting) and "City of Angels" (set). He received a Spotlight Award from NS Music Theater for lighting design for the MHS production of "The King & I." He retired from his job as a mathematics teacher at Marblehead HS, but he can still be found working as a technical director in their theaters.

**Alexandra Dietrich** (Director), from Freeport, Maine, is a Puerto Rican American known for her work as a stage director, mezzo-soprano, and social justice advocate, whose direction has been called "brilliant" and "moving". At Marblehead Little Theatre, Ms. Dietrich directed "Jesus Christ Superstar". Recently, she assistant directed James Robinson on the East Coast premiere of Tobias Picker's "Awakenings" with Odyssey Opera and was an Associate Artistic Director for Anthony Davis's "X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X", recorded on BMOP/sound, which was nominated for the 2023 GRAMMY for Best Opera Recording. Ms. Dietrich is an Artist Faculty in Voice at the University of Southern Maine. Productions include directing "Into the Woods" and "The Little Prince" at NEMPAC Opera, Viardot's "Cendrillon" at Cambridge Chamber Ensemble, "Mean Girls" and "The Phantom of the Opera" at Melrose Drama. Upcoming: "Footloose" with Broken Leg Productions this Summer; Cipullo's "Glory Denied" this Fall with Opera Company of Middlebury. She is the proud mother of Javier Tadeo.  
[www.DietrichDirectorMezzo.com](http://www.DietrichDirectorMezzo.com)

**Laura Dillon** (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working with this talented cast and crew. She grew up in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and has also lived in Hawaii and Japan. She originally moved to Massachusetts to attend college where she specialized in 17th and 18th century Literature, Celtic Archaeology and other forms of not making money. She further honed this last skill while studying medieval labor law in law school. She has costumed shows including "Romeo and Juliet", "Arcadia", "Sense and Sensibility" (Castle Hill), "how Me Eternity" (New York Theatre Festival), "Plaza Suite", "Tuck Everlasting", "Pirates Of Penzance", "Young Frankenstein", "Recovery", "Children of Eden", "From Silence", "Broadway Divas", "1776", and "Into the Woods" (Marblehead Little Theatre), "Into the Woods", "Mamma Mia", "To Kill A Mockingbird", "Titanic" (Stage 284), "Sister Act" and "The Light In the Piazza" (NextDoor Theater). She lives in Lynnfield with her husband and African Grey parrot and often visits her children in NYC.

**David Allen Flowers** (Music Director/Orchestrator) is an assistant professor of conducting at the Berklee College of Music and a music director in the Greater

Boston area. In addition to this, his first collaboration with the Marblehead Little Theatre, he has served as music director for "Into the Woods", with the Stonehill College Theatre Company and "Disenchanted", with the Priscilla Beach Theatre. He works frequently in youth theatre, regularly collaborating as a music director with the Arlington Children's Theatre and the New School of Music in Cambridge. He has also produced and conducted a critically acclaimed concert performance of Sarah Kirkland-Snyder's "Mass for the Endangered", with his ensemble, the Shift Orchestra Project. As a music director, David has also served in the education departments of the Ogunquit Playhouse and Chicago Opera Theatre. He can occasionally be found composing songs with students in public school programs through organizations like Chicago Opera Theatre and Boston's Cantata Singers.

**Dave Foye** (Henry Gatz, Michaelis, Ensemble) has appeared in several recent MLT productions, including "Tuck Everlasting", "Equivocation", "Gypsy", "Translations" and "Young Frankenstein". Although he began his theatre career in his late 50's, he is a dedicated supporter of MLT. He is very excited to be a part of this world premiere musical

**Doug Hill** (Producer) is delighted to return as a Producer for "AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical" after an 11 year hiatus. As president of the Marblehead Little Theatre- 23 years ago when the group gained ownership of the old firehouse, he never imagined that he would some day be a part of the world premiere of this exciting new musical. A retired USAF officer and Marblehead resident, Hill has remained a strong MLT supporter and has appeared on stage., served as president twice and produced several shows. He is most grateful to this extraordinary creative team for coming together for this amazing and groundbreaking theatrical experience.

**Meghan Lynch** (Pearl/Ensemble/Understudy Jordan Baker) is thrilled to be returning to the musical theater stage for the premiere of "AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical"! Huge thank you to the Marblehead Little Theatre team for this amazing opportunity. Past credits include: Little Red "Into the Woods", Fruma Sarah "Fiddler", and Robin "Godspell". Recognized by the Nashville Songwriters Association International as a "One To Watch" songwriter, you can listen to her latest tracks on Spotify. Meghan would like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending love & support.  
@meghanlynchmusic

**AJ Macrina** (George Wilson) is excited to return to Marblehead Little Theatre for the second time! AJ is a Sales Engineer by day while pursuing acting at various theaters outside of work. Previous Credits: Marblehead Little Theatre's "Tuck Everlasting" (Miles Tuck), Walpole Footlighters' "Something Rotten"

(Tom Snout/Ensemble), The Norwood Theatre's "Beauty and the Beast" (Monsieur D'Arque/Ensemble), Masque Drama Theatre's "Small Mouth Sounds" (Jan), and VOX Musical Theatre's "Dogfight" (Pete/Ensemble), "The Last Five Years" (Jamie), "Carrie" (Stokes), and "Mamma Mia!" (Ensemble)

**Allan MacTaylor** (Rodney/Bandleader/Police Officer/Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of bringing this unique theatrical experience to the stage. Allan is a choral director and music educator who works in Manchester-By-The-Sea and Salem. His recent performance credits include "Tuck Everlasting" at Marblehead Little Theater, "As You Like It", and "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" both with the Gordon College Theater Company. Allan directs the Manchester Essex Regional High School chorus, co-directs *WitchPitch?* The Salem High School a capella group and is also the Music Director for the Salem High School Drama Club Musicals. Allan currently lives in Salem and is overjoyed to be able to help show off this musical for the first time.

**Greg Mancusi-Ungaro** (Lighting Design) has worked extensively at MLT, as well as at theatres from Providence to Gloucester. His MLT credits during the past two seasons include "Tuck Everlasting", "Gypsy", "Plaza Suite", "Equivocation", and "Translations". He has earned multiple DASH award nominations, and recently won the DASH award for the lighting design of the MLT production of Brian Friel's "Translations", directed by Trudi Olivetti. He is currently preparing productions of "A View from the Bridge", and "The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui". A committed theatre educator, Greg served on the professional staff at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and has taught lighting design at the secondary and university levels, most recently as a member of the theatre faculty at Wheaton College in Norton, MA.

**Stephanie Mann** (Sharleen, Ensemble & Myrtle understudy) has been described as being a 'great dramatic centerpiece' with a 'stunning voice'. A native of Richmond, VA, she has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Brandeis University and a M.M. in Opera Performance/Voice from The Boston Conservatory of Music. Equally at home in Musical Theatre and Opera, some of her favorite roles include Donna Anna "Don Giovanni", Amy "Little Women - Opera", Abigail Adams "1776", Elettra "Idomeneo", Winifred Banks "Mary Poppins", Musetta "La Bohème", Stiffy Byng "By Jeeves", Fiordiligi "Cosi fan tutte", Maria and The Mother Abbess "The Sound of Music", Erste Dame and Papagena "Die Zauberflöte", and Cherubino "Le Nozze di Figaro". Recent roles include Madame de la Grand Bouche "Beauty and the Beast", and Alice, u/s Lily "The Secret Garden". She will be returning to Opera51 in December as Amahl in Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors".

**Fred Anthony Marco** (Book & Lyrics) THE FAMILY FIORELLI (book & lyrics): The New York Musical Theatre Festival (Dir. Robert Bartley); The

York Theatre, NYC (Dir. Charles Abbot). The American Harmony Prize Shortlist; National Alliance for Musical Theatre finalist; LITTLE WEST FIFTH AVENUE (book & lyrics): Music in a Box Theatre NYC; THE REUNION (book & lyrics) Broadcast Music International HQ, in NYC. Fred is an alumnus of the Tony Award ® winning BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Writing Workshop. Fred is currently collaborating on a new musical based on a major motion picture, to be announced soon.

**Katie Meuse** (Stage Manager) is a Salem State University alumni with the class of 2020, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. Katie has assistant directed the MLT youth productions over the past six years, and directed the youth summer workshops throughout the pandemic. Over the past year she has been honored to be brought on as an Associate Director for "Gypsy" and "Plaza Suite" at MLT, and is excited to try out stage management for the first time for this production. She is so grateful for her Marblehead, Salem and Saugus creative family. And especially grateful for her family for all their love and support.

**Michelle Moran** (Daisy) is a recent graduate of Salem States BFA Acting program. Previous credits include "Into The Woods" (Bakers Wife), "Othello" (Desdemona), "Heathers: The Musical" (Heather Chandler), "Orlando" (Sasha), "Young Frankenstein" (Inga), "Merrily We Roll Along" (Gussie), "Legally Blonde" (Brooke Wyndham), "Small Mouth Sounds" (Joan), "Bedroom Farce" (Jan), and "The Salem Sister Spooktacular" (Sarah Sanderson). She is also a recipient of the 2023 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Best Scene Partner Award.

**Julia Nelson** (Doris/Ensemble & Daisy understudy) is delighted to make her MLT debut. This is her first time appearing on the front side of the curtain in quite some time, having spent the past several years on the production side of things. She has previously appeared as Miss Honey in "Roald Dahls Matilda the Musical" at the Cannon Theatre. Thank you to the cast and team for a memorable experience!

**Erin Pelikhov** (Flapper, Ensemble & Dance Captain) is excited to finally perform again at Marblehead Little Theatre after four years! In March, Erin performed in "Chicago" at Stage 284 (Hunyak, Liz, Mona) and was a producer for recent MLT productions "Tuck Everlasting" and "Translations". Other theater credits include "Newsies" (Finch) and "Pippin" (featured dancer) at Stage 284, ensemble roles in "Mamma Mia" and "Billy Elliot" at MLT, five seasons of tap-dancing in the Urban Nutcracker in Boston, and several years dancing with Jewish Musical Theater Firelech. Erin has been a dancer for over 30 years, and has taught dance classes throughout Greater Boston for over 20 years. She is currently the Graphic & Web Designer at the JCC of the North Shore, and was

formerly assistant director of Forty Steps Dance of Nahant. She lives with her husband and twin 9-year-olds, who are also performers. Thank you to the creators, production team and cast for putting on a great show, and a big thanks to her family for babysitting!

**Howie Reith** (Tom Buchanan) is thrilled to be joining *Gatsby* for his first performance with the Marblehead Little Theatre. You may have seen him as Gaston in The Norwood Theatre's production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast". This is Howie's 2nd show in more than seven years. Back then, you may have seen him performing musical improv comedy with *Rebels Without Applauze*. He's also performed in several operas including "The Medium", "Riders to the Sea", "La Périhole", and "La Via Parisienne". For his day job, Howie is a software engineer at Audible. Thank you to the cast and crew of "Gatsby", to his voice teacher Matt Cunningham, to the Ensemble Performing Arts Studio, and to everyone who's helped him improve as a performer this past year.

**Keith Robinson** (Nick Carraway) is thrilled to be a part of this premiere production with Marblehead Little Theatre. Keith is a Senior at Boston University, pursuing a BFA in Acting. Before attending BU, Keith performed in many productions at Boston Children's Theatre including "The Drowsy Chaperone" (Robert), 1984 (O'Brien), "Carrie: The Musical" (Billy Nolan), "The Glass Menagerie" (Jim O'Connor), and "Footloose" (Ren McCormack). At Boston University, Keith has appeared in "Everybody" (Usher/Stuff) and "Murder Ballad" (Michael). His most recent production was the premiere of "Save the Whales" (Todd) at Boston Playwrights Theatre. Keith is grateful to have spent this past spring studying Classical Acting at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. Keith would like to thank the entire production team for all of their tireless work on "AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical".

**Ashley Royer** (Molls, Maid, Flapper, Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her first production and making her debut at Marblehead Little Theater. Growing up, she loved to dance, sing, and write; she always wanted to be in a musical! Outside of this production, Ashley is a third-grade teacher in Gloucester and author of a YA fiction novel, *Remember to Forget*. She would like to thank everyone at MLT for believing in her and granting her this new opportunity!

**Bridget Saunders** (she/her) (Minnie, Molls, Flapper, Ensemble) is a Boston-based actor, singer, and dancer hailing from central Maine. She is a 2023 graduate of Salem State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance and a minor in French studies. Previous credits include "Peter and the Starcatcher" (Theatre Company of Saugus); "The School for Lies", "Blood Wedding", "The Thing They Love", "O Beautiful" (Salem State University);

"Love/Sick", "Dead Man's Cellphone" (Student Theatre Ensemble); "Love/Sick" (Northern Essex Community College); "The Seven of Hearts" (Post Meridian Radio Players). @bridgetrsaunders

**Lauren Schultes** (Lucille / Ensemble)

Lauren is delighted to be making her return to the stage in "AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical"! A classically trained singer, she has performed across the U.S. & Europe, and currently sits on the DEIA Council for the Boston Lyric Opera. When not singing, you will find her selling Bush's Beans (Roll that beautiful bean footage!) or out on the golf course trying to break 90. Many thanks to the cast & crew, Dr. Emily Siar, family & friends!

**Lizzie Schwarze** (Evie, Flapper, Ensemble) is thrilled to be playing Evie & ensemble roles in " AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical"! A native of Melrose, MA, Lizzie will be a senior at the University of New Hampshire in the fall where she studies Musical Theater. She recently has been seen playing her violin in "Once" at the Firehouse Center for the Arts and as Marilla Cuthbert in UNH's production of "Anne of Green Gables". She has loved getting to work on a world premier musical and is so excited for everyone to see it. Thank you to the cast and crew for all their work to make the show come alive, and to her friends and family for their love and support.

**Frank Schiro** (Music) PRYOR RENDERING (music/lyrics): World Premiere, City Repertory Theatre, Oklahoma City and The American Theatre, Tulsa, OK, 2016. THOSE MUSCLEBOUND COWBOYS FROM SNAKEPIT GULCH (music) 2018. SIMPLE MATH (music) New York Fringe Festival. TWICE UPON A BIRTHDAY (music), World Premiere Tulsa Opera, 2015-16; commissioned by Connecticut Opera; THE HAPPY PRINCE (Book, music and lyrics), Theatre Row, NYC, NYMF festival; THE BELOVED DEARLY (Music), TADA! Theatre; DOG AND HIS MASTER (Music and sound design), Lark Theater; COMMEDIA TONITE! (Music and lyrics), Lark Theatre; TWELFTH NIGHT, Wild Pantalettes Of Verona and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Music and sound design), American Globe

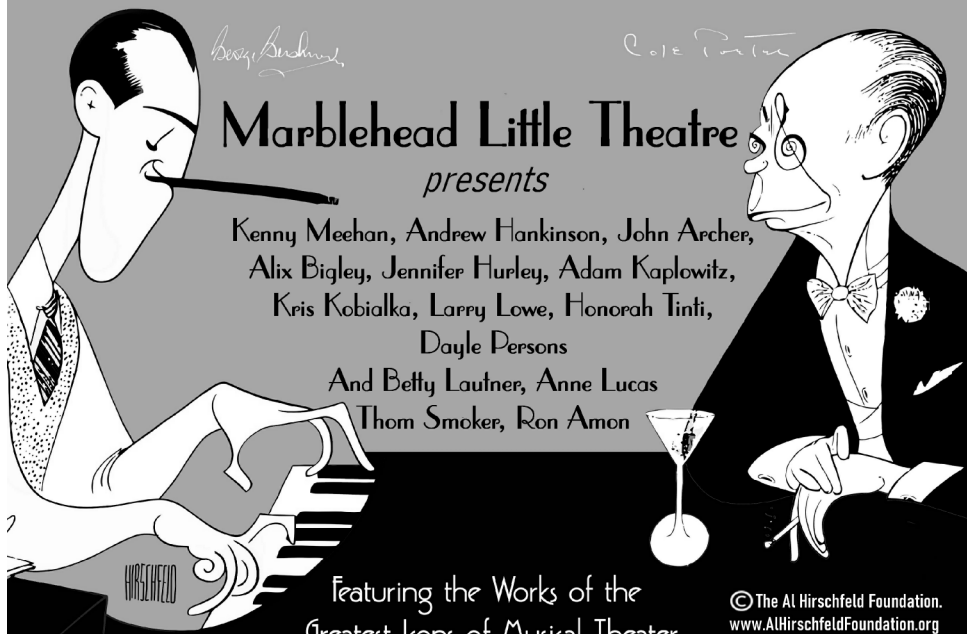
**Ariel Sargent** (Myrtle). Past roles with MLT: Ali "Mamma Mia!", Yonah "Children of Eden", Young Lily "Letters from War", Rosie "Cabaret". Elsewhere: Jessica in "Hand to God" (AFD Theatre), Anna in "Anna Christie" (Tower Theatre, London, UK), Ardelia in "Silence! The Musical" (Arts After Hours) Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet", and "Cordelia in King Lear" (Cape Ann Shakespeare Troupe), among others. Ariel holds a Bachelor's degree in theatre from Dean College, and a certificate from The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

**Mark Shasha** (Meyer Wolfsheim) has been acting in dramas, comedies and musicals at MLT and other theatres for more than 25 years. From Atticus Finch

in "To Kill a Mockingbird" to "Willy Wonka". Mark is author and illustrator of bestselling children's books such as NIGHT OF THE MOONJELLIES and is a painter exhibiting in galleries and museums worldwide.

**Aaron Swiniuch** (Dan Cody/William/Ensemble/u/s George Wilson) is excited to be back at Marblehead Little Theater after performing in "Gypsy" last summer! Previously he has been seen as Potiphar in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", Audrey II in "Little Shop of Horrors", Shrek in "Shrek the Musical", and Ms. Trunchbull in "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical". Outside of performing, Aaron is a special education teacher at Beverly Middle School, as well as the director/choreographer at both the middle and high schools in Beverly. He is excited to be continuing his career in education by becoming the chorale teacher at Beverly Middle School in the fall! He thanks his family for all their support and love :)

**James White** (Jay Gatsby) is both honored and humbled to be portraying the titular role in MLT's world premier of "AmericanThe Great Gatsby: An American Musical ". A north shore native, he hails from the Cape Ann area and currently resides in New Haven, CT. Past credits at MLT include Simon Zealotes in "Jesus Christ Superstar". Other recent credits include Charlie Hewitt in the world premiere of Anthony Davis' new musical "Shimmer at Yale University", and Harry/featured soloist in the first presentation of Peter Hodgson's new musical "The Bridge", also at Yale University. Other past credits include "The Producers" (Stormtrooper), "Godspell" (Jesus), "[ Title of Show]" (Jeff), "The Rocky Horror Show" (Rocky), "The Secret Garden" (Dickon), "Children of Eden" (Cain/Japheth), "The Light in the Piazza" (Fabrizio - u/s), "Once Upon a Mattress" (The Minstrel), "Working" (The Mason/ensemble), "And The World Goes 'Round'" (featured soloist/ensemble), "Aida" (Zoser), "Ragtime" (Grandfather), "The Pirates of Penzance" (Frederic), "The Gondoliers" (Luiz), "Les Miserables" (Enjolras), "Grease" (Doody), "Guys and Dolls" (Sky Masterson), and others. James has sung with many symphonic choirs and chamber ensembles with numerous orchestras throughout the northeast, including The Boston Pops; Odyssey Opera/Boston Modern Orchestra Project; Boston Landmarks Orchestra; The Metropolitan Chorale; Westminster Symphonic Choir; Westminster Schola Cantorum; New York Philharmonic; Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra; San Francisco Symphony; Dresden Staatskapelle; and others. Most recently, James can be heard singing with The Boys of St. Paul's Choir School in Harvard Square on their recent recording release - Gabriel Fauré: Requiem & Other Masterworks.



## Marblehead Little Theatre *presents*

Kenny Meehan, Andrew Hankinson, John Archer,  
Alix Bigley, Jennifer Hurley, Adam Kaplowitz,  
Kris Kobialka, Larry Lowe, Honorah Tinti,  
Dayle Persons  
And Betty Lautner, Anne Lucas  
Thom Smoker, Ron Amon

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# GERSHWIN/PORTER

## WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?

Produced by Dayle Person and Elaine Leahy

Written by Anne Lucas

Directed by Anne Lucas and Betty Lautner

Music Directed by Thom Smoker

Choreography by Danny Swain

July 28, 29, 30, Aug 4, 5 at 7:30pm

July 30, Aug 6 at 2:00 pm

Tickets at [MLTLive.org](http://MLTLive.org)

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## **Marblehead Little Theatre**

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