



Production Team Bios

Nell Bang-Jensen (Director) has been making theater in Philadelphia for the past ten years. She has created four full-scale original works, in addition to producing and directing for many of Philadelphia's major theater institutions including FringeArts, Philadelphia Theatre Company, the Wilma, Pig Iron, and the Painted Bride. Nell has served as Associate Artistic Director of Pig Iron Theatre Company and on the artistic staff of the Wilma Theater. Her passion for making art outside of the usual theatrical circles guides much of her original work. *The Caregivers* premiered at Pig Iron last year and was made with Philadelphians who work as home health aides and hospice workers. Her upcoming *Boy Project*, a play made with 12-15 year old boys about masculinity, is being produced by FringeArts and was awarded a 2019 National MAP Fund grant. Nell is the recipient of a Next Stage Director's Fellowship from the Drama League (2019), a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship (2011-2012), and was a participant in Theatre Communication Group's Leadership U: One-on-One program, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications group; a national fellowship given to eight individuals who TCG believes are the core and future of theater. In October 2018, *American Theatre* magazine named her as one of six "theatre workers to know" across the nation. Nell is also a Co-Founder of HATCH, an arts residency in Harrisville, New Hampshire that provides female-identifying and non-binary artists with time and space to create new theater. A graduate of Swarthmore College, Nell is also passionate about Education and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Arts as well as a Visiting Faculty Member at Carleton College.

Michael John Garcés (Playwright) is the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles, and an industry leader in creating playwright-driven social practice theater, regularly drawing on classics as thematic provocations. Recent Cornerstone productions written by Garcés include *Magic Fruit* (2017), a play with music based on Mozart's *The Magic Flute* made with Californians grappling with food insecurity, and *The Forked Path* (2017), based on Grimm's *Hansel and Gretel* made with patients at a forensic psychiatric clinic in The Netherlands. Beyond Cornerstone, he has written plays for institutions across the country, including *south* (2017), presented as part of the Great Plains Theatre Commons and informed by his work with community members in South Omaha, a racially diverse area that many migrants, immigrants, and refugees call home. His mastery of balancing an understanding of a given community and a sense of aesthetic distance make him an ideal collaborator for this ambitious project. Michael is the recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award, the Princess Grace Statue and the Alan Schneider Award.

ILL DOOTS (Original Music) has always and will forever be a body of change. Since their inception at University of the Arts in 2009, this musical collective of individuals has each brought their own lifetime of artistic influences and experiences into the fold to contribute to the group's timeless and genre-defying music. Hailing from all over the United States but unified under the undeniable grit and soul of Philadelphia, the band currently consists of four members: US - Emcee, Elle.Morris

- Vocals, Scott Ziegler - Bass, and Jordan McCree - Drums. From energy shifting live performances to commissioned theatre works and educational workshops, three studio albums and countless mix-tapes— to deny ILL DOOTS' output, advocacy, and relevance to the culture would be a disservice to the community that helped make it possible. Every member strives to embody the acronym behind the whole brand: ILL= I Love Living & I Love Learning. Previous theatre work includes composing for *The Snowy Day And Other Stories* (The Arden Theatre); composing, and performing *An Octoroon* (The Wilma Theater); and *Hands Up* (Flashpoint Theatre Company).

Tanaquil Márquez (Assistant Director) (she/her/ella) is a Latina artist who focuses on bold bilingual work, celebrating joy and the LatinX voice. Tanaquil is a member of 1812's Artistic Core as well as the Director of Education. Previous directing and acting credits include; *This Is The Week That Is* (1812), *Oedipus El Rey* (Teatro del Sol), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Del Shakes), *Rosalind X 3* (Delaware Shakespeare), *Set Model Theatre* (1812), *The Way I Walk* (1812), *Passport* (La Fábrica), *Fefu and her Friends* (West Chester University), *Azul* (La Fábrica), and *Bodas de Sangre* (Teatro Quarantine). She is also the director and co-writer of Del Shakes' upcoming bilingual musical adaptation of *Twelfth Night*, *O Lo Que Quieras*. Tanaquil is currently working on the *Nichos Project*, a multidisciplinary theatrical creation, collaborating with Esperanza Arts Center and the Mexican immigrant community in South Philadelphia.

Maggie Davis* (Production Stage Manager) is a Philadelphia-based stage and production manager. She is currently the resident stage manager and an associate producer at Quintessence Theatre Group in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia, working on the majority of Quintessence's productions since 2018. Other stage and production management credits include: Four seasons with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival; *Yours, Anne*, among other productions (Half Moon Theatre); Seven seasons with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival; *Christmas Rappings* (Judson Memorial Church); *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Florida/Texas Tour); *Mike Birbiglia's My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*; *Tribes*; and *Hit the Wall* (Barrow Street Theatre); *Emotional Creature* (Signature Center); *Measure for Measure* (Fiasco/New Victory Theater). Many thanks to the TOWN team for the warm welcome! Peace.

Chandalae Nyswonger* (Assistant Stage Manager) Broadway: *Anastasia*. Off-Broadway: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *Twelfth Night* (Classic Stage Company); *53% OF*, *Somebody's Daughter* (Second Stage); *Jesus Hopped the "A" Train* (Signature Theatre). Regional: *Lost in Yonkers*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Cry It Out*, *Hamlet*, *Reverberations*, *Rear Window* (Hartford Stage Company); *Private Lives* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *Hair*, *At Home at the Zoo*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Oklahoma!* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *A Civil War Christmas*, *Wild With Happy*, *dance of the holy ghosts* (Center Stage).

Melanie Cotton (Movement Coach) (she/her) is a choreographer, dancer, educator and theatre artist. Melanie's performance and creative practice integrates various forms into her work: clown, musical theater, improvisation, waacking, performative protest, and stepping. She worked as a principal dancer and contributing choreographer for Montazh PAC. From 2009 to 2014 she was a principal dancer and teaching artist for Rennie Harris: Puremovement dance theater company. Melanie's performance credits include *The Happiness Lecture*, 1812 Productions' *It's My Party: The Women in Comedy Project* and *The way I Walk*. Walnut Street Theater *In The Heights*, Pig Iron's *The Swamp is On*, Allan Kaprow's 'Chicken' Reinvented by Alex Da Corte, *The Way I Walk*. Choreographer credits include The Arden Theatre's production of *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, Lightning Rod Specials' *The Appointment*, The Bearded Ladies Cabaret *Love Notes*, 1812 Production's *Two*



*Appearing through an Agreement between Theatre Horizon and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Outta Three and *This Is The week That Is*, and Theatre Horizon's production of *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever*.

Scott Ziegler (Music Director) (he/him) is a Boston-based musician and member of ILL DOOTS. He is stoked to be working with Theatre Horizon and for the opportunity to collaborate with Norristown community members. Previous theater work includes composing for *The Snowy Day And Other Stories* (The Arden Theatre); composing, performing and music directing *An Octoroon* (The Wilma Theater); and *Hands Up* (Flashpoint Theatre Company). [www.illdoots.com] Thank you to Kaitlyn, J&G.

Elle.Morris (Music Director) is a vocalist of the collective ILL DOOTS and is grateful to be joining Theatre Horizon once more! Though this is Elle.'s first music direction job with us, she has provided vocals for previous productions such as *Agitators* and *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever*. Her other music direction credits include *Crimson Lit* (UARTS Polyphone Festival 2022), *Passing Strange* (Long Wharf Theatre), *Dreamgirls* (Clubhouse), and *The Wiz* (Theatre in the X). Elle. sends BIG LOVE to the cast, production team, DOOTS squad, and her loved ones.

Chris Haig+ (Scenic and Props Designer) grew up in Norristown and learned his craft on the stages of the Barn Playhouse and KKCHS. He is honored to help bring this story about his hometown to life and dedicates this production to the memory of those who have left a legacy both in our town and in our hearts. A graduate of University of the Arts, Chris has designed sets and props throughout Philly for over 20 years and enjoyed ten seasons as the Props Supervisor at Arden Theatre Company. He has designed for the Arden, Theatre Horizon, InterAct, 1812 Productions, People's Light, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Bristol Riverside Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, University of the Arts, Inis Nua, Arcadia University, Shakespeare in Clark Park, Tribe of Fools, Commonwealth Classic Theatre Company, Delaware Shakespeare Festival, Quintessence Theatre Group, 11th Hour, Plays & Players and Simpatico Theater, including their production of *Time Is On Our Side* for which he received a Barrymore nomination for Best Scenic Design. To see more of his work, visit chrishaigdesigns.com.

Leigh Paradise (Costume Designer) (she/her/hers) is a costumer based in southeastern PA, and is delighted to return to Theatre Horizon for this community-based project. Recent design credits include *Bayard Rustin: Inside Ashland* (People's Light), *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever* (Theatre Horizon), *The Plague* (Lantern Theater Company), and *Two Outta Three* (1812 Productions). Her hobbies include hoarding yarn and matching patterns for fun. She would like to thank her family for their patience and support.

Anthony Martinez-Briggs (Sound Designer) (they/he) has a crush on fashionable sneakers, well cultivated herbs, and science fiction novels written by black femme authors. They are a Wilma HotHouse company member, Bearded Ladies Associate Artist, curator, teaching artist, performer, writer, and sound designer. They have worked with several theaters in the region as a sound designer including Arden Theatre Company, Passage Theatre Company, Azuka Theatre, Simpatico Theatre, Theater Exile, University of the Arts, Drexel University, and of course Theatre Horizon. They have been acknowledged by a few accolades and nominations here and there for their work as a theatre artist and musician. They are also known as "Us": emcee and original member of the band ILL DOOTS.

Jordan McCree (Sound Designer) is a percussionist, producer, composer, and teaching artist in Philadelphia. His most recent works and collaborations include: *Backing Track* (Arden Theatre Company), *Citizen* (New Light Theatre), *Peril's Island* (Shakespeare In Clark Park), *Fat Ham* (The Wilma Theater), *My General Tubman* (Arden Theatre Company), *An Iliad* (Arden Theatre Company), *Ro-*



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meo and Juliet (The Wilma Theater), *Red Bike* (Simpatico Theater), and *Communitas: 5 Years Later* (Almanac Theater). Currently, he is a teaching artist with the Village of Arts and Humanities. He is also a member of Philly-based hip hop collective, ILL DOOTS. ILL DOOTS' latest single, *Food Chain*, is available now on Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal, and more! @illdoots | illdoots.com | #ILLMOVEMENT

Krista Smith+ (Lighting Designer) (she/her) is a Philadelphia-based theatrical designer and interdisciplinary artist. She is thrilled to be joining Theatre Horizon for the first time. Recent credits include: *Ni Mi Madre* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), *Zoetrope* (Exquisite Corpse Company), *Spring Awakening* (Auburn University), *Coop* (Paradise Factory), *At Black Lake* (The Tank), *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* (Triad Stage), *Good Person of Setzuan* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Twin Size Beds* (Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival & Joe's Pub), *Machinal* (Lee Strasberg Institute), *This American Wife* (New York Theater Workshop Next Door), *Doll's House Pt3* (Ars Nova), *Twelfth Night* (Two River Theater Little Shakes), *An Enemy of The People* (Yale Repertory Theater), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Williams College), *Dido and Aeneas* (Purchase College), *Sense and Sensibility* (Rutgers University), *The Winter's Tale*, *Everything That Never Happened*, *The Hour of Great Mercy*, *Bulgaria! Revolt!*, and *The Merchant of Venice* (Yale School of Drama). Originally from California, West Coast credits include: *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Once on This Island*, *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Cinnabar Theater), *Little Brother* (Custom Made Theatre), *The Great Tragedies by Mike Daisey* (California Shakespeare Theater), *Anatol* (Aurora Theatre), and *Fire Work* (Theatre FIRST). MFA Yale School of Drama. www.KristaSmithLD.com

Shelby North (Producing Director) is a passionate theatre practitioner originally from Atlanta, GA. She works to facilitate dreams coming to life onstage and believes in the power of theatre to change hearts and minds. Previously, she worked as an Equity Stage Manager for theaters including The Alliance Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Group, Delaware Theatre Company, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Quintessence Theatre Group, and The Yale Repertory Theatre. Shelby received her undergraduate degree from College of Charleston and her Master of Fine Arts from Yale School of Drama.

Sarah Braun (Production Coordinator) is an entertainment professional with a lifelong passion for theater that has led to a diverse career in the Philadelphia entertainment community including stage and film acting, production coordination, and AV. A graduate of Temple University, her credits include lead actor and producer for the award winning short, *Vessel* by Cinevore Studios. She has performed in many FringeArts productions as well as web-series such as, *Nerd vs. Geek* and *Super Plumber Brothers*. Other credits include local and international shows as a member of High Drama sketch comedy troupe and various regional theaters. Another facet of her entertainment experience has been working back stage and behind the scenes in wide range of positions as a freelance production professional.

Eliza Waterman (Production Assistant/Covid Compliance Officer) (she/her) is a Philadelphia-based artist and a recent graduate from Bryn Mawr College. She feels grateful and enthusiastic to be working with Theatre Horizon for the first time on *TOWN*. Typically seen acting on stage, this is Eliza's first time behind the scenes working in stage management! She would love to thank the wonderful Theatre Horizon team, this incredible group of actors, and her support system of family and friends for making all of this possible.

Bradley K. Wrenn (Production Assistant) is a theatre artist dedicated to "joyful play and absurd whimsy." He is co-artistic director of The Berserker Residents, a company dedicated to original

comedic productions that spring from improvisation and curiosity. His work has been hailed as "daft, ephemeral and joyous" by the *Scotsman* and he has been praised for his "refusal to relinquish that unrefined creative spirit" by the *New York Times*. His work has been presented nationally and internationally at the Abraham's Art Center, The San Francisco Mime Troupe, The Annenberg Center, The Assembly in Scotland and ASU Gammage. He has been artist in residence with FringeArts, Drew University, Ars Nova (company in residence) and the University of the Arts. He has also worked as a deviser, writer and producer with Swim Pony Performing Arts, Pig Iron Theatre Company and director Nell Bang-Jensen. As a performer he has worked with Mum Puppettheatre, The Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Horizon, Azuka Theatre, and Shakespeare in Clark Park.

Janine Grando (Production Assistant) (she/they) is a graduating theatre student from Montgomery County Community College. She recently worked as Assistant Stage Manager for Theatre Horizon's *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever*. Janine worked as the stage manager and dramaturg for the school's production.

Gilberto Vega (Dramaturg) is a queer Costa Rican-American creator, educator, and administrator for music and theatre. Originally hailing from Lancaster, PA, his recent credits include: Dramaturg for *Gente del sol* (PlayPenn); Director for Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (Penn Singers Light Opera Company); Dramaturg for *The Agitators* (Theatre Horizon); Asst. Director for *The Wiz* (Theatre in the X); Playwright for *Miley Vs. Mozart: An Epic Popperatic Smackdown* as part of The Vs. Series (Theatre Contra); Audio Describer at Arden Theatre Company (12 productions!). Gilberto is the Director of External Relations at Theatre Horizon. Gilberto is deeply committed to a more equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible arts community, involved in EDIA work with Theatre Horizon, Delaware Shakespeare, The Philly POPS, Platt Student Performing Arts House, and the Penn Glee Club, which recently made the transition to a gender-inclusive choir after 159 years as an all-male ensemble. Gilberto was a Micro-Resident Artist at the Painted Bride Arts Center and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a recipient of the Wallace Award through Platt Performing Arts Houses.

Marisol Rosa-Shapiro (Community Coordinator) is a theatre artist, educator, and creator of original works of performance. She has recently appeared on stage in *AIRNESS* at Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, Shakespeare in Clark Park's *Every Everyman*, Theatre Horizon's *Holiday Spectacular* and Naked Empire Bouffon Company's *The Most Important Place in the World*, running September 25, 29, and 30 in the 2022 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Directing credits include Theatre Horizon's *Art Houses*, and Spellbound Theatre's upcoming production of *WINK* at the New Victory Theatre in NYC. Marisol has been Shakespeare in Clark Park's Director of Community Engagement since 2019, and was part of the steering committee for TYA/USA's BIPOC affinity group for artists and administrators creating theatre for young audiences. Marisol is a board member for Clowns Without Borders USA, and has been a proud volunteer artist on three projects with CWB, all concerning the U.S./Mexico border. Keep up with her most recent work at marisolmakes.com.

Bella Main (Youth Coordinator) (she/her) is a Philadelphia-based Theatre Artist, Educator, Organizer, and recent graduate from The University of the Arts. She is so excited to collaborate with Theatre Horizon to combine her love of theatre and community-based projects on *TOWN*. Bella has been creating theatre in Philly since 2019, most notably directing, producing, and creating *The Jawny Chuckles Show*, which premiered at The Painted Bride during their Solstice Series for emerging artists. She would like to thank the amazing team at Theatre Horizon, her parents, friends, and Raleigh for always cheering her on!

Sunflower B. Rose (Autism Drama Program Ambassador) (She/her/ze/zir) is blessed to be a Philadelphia based TheatreMaker, Filmmaker, Painter, Teaching Artist, and much more. Recently Suni directed *Young Money* at Azuka Theater. She also served as Associate Director for *Fairview*



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at the Wilma Theater. Through her production company, OMG! Studios LLC, Suni has produced and featured work in *Fade to Black: Issa a Black Philly Film Fest*, *Sheesh: Issa Blackity Black Joyfest*, and *Open House @ The Palace*. For more about Suni, you can visit her website, omgstudiosphilly.com or follow her on Instagram @OMGstuidosphilly

Julie Padovan (Wardrobe Head) (she/her) is a proud alumni of the University of the Arts where she graduated with a BFA in Theater Design and Technology and a minor in Art History in 2021. Julie is so excited to be working on her second production with Theatre Horizon! Since graduating, she has Assistant Costume Designed/wardrobe supervised *TJ Loves Sally 4Ever* with Theatre Horizon and designed in Drexel University's dance 2021-2022 season. She is so excited to be working on such a community driven project and warmly wishes the best of luck to the cast and crew of *TOWN!*

Heather Pynne (Master Electrician) (She/Her) is delighted to be joining the Theatre Horizon team for the first time. She recently moved to Philadelphia from Atlanta, where she was the master electrician at the Center for Puppetry Arts, in addition to her freelance electrician, lighting design and stage management work. She would like to thank Chris Sannino and Ben Tilley for their constant faith and support.

Nicholas Rahn (Audio Engineer) is thrilled to be working with Theatre Horizon for a third time! A UArts graduate with a degree in music performance, Nicholas works regularly as a freelance audio engineer, scenic carpenter, and pit musician with various theaters around the city such as Arden Theatre Company, FringeArts, Venice Island, and Theatre Horizon. Nicholas first worked with Theatre Horizon as the pit bassist for their production of *The Color Purple*. When not working behind the scenes, Nicholas performs with his band Grocer.

Cory Smalls (Second Sound)