

2023/2024 Mainstage Season



CASTING BREAKDOWN

- ***Justice At War***

By Mimi Jo Katano, Wendy Lement, and Jordan Winer

A co-production with Tradewind Arts

1st Rehearsal 08/29/2023; Performs 09/19/2023-10/15/2023

Directed: Andi Meyer

Based on a true story, *Justice At War* is a unique and interactive drama that brings to life a critical moment in U.S. history. Audiences are sworn in as Supreme Court justices to hear Mitsuye Endo's challenge to her years' long incarceration at an internment camp by the U.S. government during World War II. As an American citizen of Japanese descent, Mitsuye declares her detention unconstitutional and takes her argument all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in a compelling case that asks audiences to hear testimony, question witnesses, and reflect on crucial questions about national security, government responsibility, and the administration of justice. Both enlightening and inspiring, *Justice At War* is a real-life account of how one young woman defended the rights of millions.

Adult Roles:

- ✓ Bailiff - Officially dispatches their job.
- ✓ General Dewitt - Commonly viewed as one of the key villains who played a major part in the rounding up of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans and placing them into brutal conditions in remote locations across the continent.
- ✓ James Purcell - An attorney passionately invested in justice, diligently working his entire career on criminal law, civil defense, unions, and the Japanese American community over his career.
- ✓ General Fahey - Over his career, General Fahey prepared and argued all four cases of Japanese Americans vs the United States. During this trial, he does his best to be seen as level headed and fair. General Fahey became a judge and even had a hand in forming the United Nations. Years later, his more unjust methods have come to light. One year after his death, he was found to have suppressed evidence on those cases. That suppression of evidence was the deciding factor in three key cases of the incarceration of Japanese Americans, which were eventually vacated.
- ✓ Chief Justice Stone - A fair and thoughtful judge, Chief Justice Stone works through the presentations with deep investment. Holding the attorneys and witnesses accountable, he pushes them to make their cases. He holds the courtroom to the highest justice.

- ✓ Mitsuye Endo - Deemed "concentedly loyal" and the perfect person for the case against the United States. She was born and raised in California and subsequently fired from her job with the California State Department for Employment in the weeks following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Mitsuye tries not to make waves but will stand up for truth.

- ***Electric Poe***

By Edgar Allan Poe

Adapted by R.H. Wilhoit

Performs 10/19/2023-11/05/2023

Director: Heidi Van

Performed outdoors in one of Kansas City's hidden gems! *Electric Poe* comes to life at Union Cemetery to showcase three newly adapted Poe works. R.H. Wilhoit returns as the master of the macabre to perform Poe's beloved poem "Annabel Lee," short story "Berenice," as well as his claustrophobic classic, "The Cask of Amontillado," in which a man takes fatal revenge on his friend by entombing him within a stone wall. Once more, live music will punctuate the moody masterpieces. Treat yourself and your family this Halloween to superb acting accompanied by atmospheric underscoring in front of Union Cemetery's "Holding Vault," built in 1857 in Kansas City's oldest public cemetery. (Guided Cemetery Tour packages before the show are available!)

- ✓ 1 adult male (precast)

- ***Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical***

Script adaptation by Robert Penola

Arrangements and orchestrations by Timothy Splain

Based on the animated television special and the stage production directed and conceived by Jeff Frank and First Stage

1st Rehearsal 10/17/2023; Performs 11/07/2023-12/31/2023

Director: TBD

Back by popular demand, the beloved television classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* soars off the screen and onto the stage this holiday season. Rudolph and his friends, Clarice, Hermey the Elf, and Yukon Cornelius learn what makes you different makes you special. As one reviewer put it, "If adorable is at the top of your Christmas list, save an afternoon or evening for *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*... as rich as eggnog!"

Roles for 18 - Adults and some youth age 12 and older:

- ✓ Rudolph - A young buck. Youthful; physically agile; winning performer; vulnerable but strong; a solid singer.

- ✓ Sam - A snowman. A warm, middle-aged man with a relaxed demeanor. A powerful storyteller who never gets in the way of the story he's telling. A knowing sense of humor; an appealing, warm singing voice. Male.
- ✓ Santa Claus - Larger-than-life personality; cheerful but distracted. Agelessly youthful, but should read middle-aged. Strong singing voice. Male.
- ✓ Hermey - An elf. Charmingly apologetic, but with inner strength. Strong comic sensibility; must move well and have a strong character voice.
- ✓ Clarice - A young doe. Youthful; physically agile. Strong, willful, loving, flirtatious, must have a lilting pure soprano voice. Female.
- ✓ Yukon Cornelius - A prospector. Instantly likable character; slightly absent-minded; physically agile and strong comedic ability. Male.
- ✓ Donner - Rudolph's father (can be double-cast as Boss Elf). Physically agile; tougher on the outside than he is on the inside. Male.
- ✓ Mrs. Donner - Rudolph's mother. Maternal, soft-spoken, quietly strong. Warm mezzo. Female.
- ✓ Mrs. Claus - Feisty, matter-of-fact, inherently warm. A strong belter. Female.
- ✓ Fireball - A young buck. Featured member of the chorus; young, sparky, boyish - will also understudy Rudolph. Male.
- ✓ Coach Comet - Reindeer Games Coach; Clarice's father (can be double-cast as Yukon). Physically agile; featured member of Santa's team; leads the reindeer games with coach-like quality. Male.
- ✓ Boss Elf - Humorless manager of the elves' workshop; innate comic sensibility (and be double cast as Donner). Also plays Blitzen in the finale sequence.
- ✓ King Moonracer King of the Island of Misfit Toys - Conceived as a large stage puppet; his personality must come through his voice, which projects a strong, decisive personality; stern but warm. Male.
- ✓ Bumble The Abominable Snow Monster - The Bumble is actually a series of three-dimensional puppet/set pieces, with a distinctive growl and series of sound FX.
- ✓ Charlie - A jack-in-the-box, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Doll - A girl doll, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Spotted Elephant - An elephant with spots, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Train - A train engine with square wheels, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Bird - A bird that swims, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Cowboy - A cowboy who rides an ostrich, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.

- ✓ Plane - An airplane that doesn't fly, one of The Misfit Toys (puppets with performer-puppeteers who voice these toys). The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Blitzen - One of Santa's Reindeer. The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Dasher - One of Santa's Reindeer. The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Dancer - One of Santa's Reindeer. The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Prancer - One of Santa's Reindeer. The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Vixen - One of Santa's Reindeer. The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.
- ✓ Cupid - One of Santa's Reindeer. The Misfit Toys, Santa's reindeer, and the Elves chorus should be double-cast as needed.

• ***The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical***

A new theatre for Young Audiences version

Book by Joe Tracz

Music & Lyrics by Rob Rokicki

Adapted from the book by Rick Riordan

1st Rehearsal 01/09/2024; Performs 01/30/2024-03/10/2024

Director: Heidi Van

A dynamic new musical adapted from the best-selling book by Rick Riordan. Featuring a thrilling original rock score, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* is an action-packed mythical adventure "worthy of the gods" (*Time Out New York*) that stormed Broadway in 2019. When teenager Percy Jackson discovers he's a demigod, he and his friends embark on an epic journey to find Zeus' missing lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods. As the half-blood son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the Sea, Percy has newly-discovered powers he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want, and a mythology textbook's worth of monsters on his trail.

Roles for 6 - Adults with possibility of some youth age 12 and older:

- ✓ Percy Jackson – Lead Vocalist in the band. Son of Poseidon. A kid with a tough exterior but a sensitive heart who spent his whole life defending himself. Fueled by impulse, he must now own his power and go on the offensive to save his mother, the most important thing. Strong pop-rock tenor.
- ✓ Annabeth Chase – Singer in the band. Daughter of Athena. Overqualified but unseen. She is over being invisible. Learning to live unapologetically in her brilliance, she is unwilling to hide her Black girl magic. She got it from her mama. Embracing the hyper-visibility inherent in her identity with expressive hair that will never fit under a hat. Strong pop-rock high belter.
- ✓ Grover Underwood – Singer in the band. A soft spirit. Intuitive and sensitive. Keeping the group motivated and driving forward, he takes the responsibility of friendship very

seriously. His empathy and humor disguise the fact that he is working through deep guilt and shame from the past. Hoping to be seen as worthy. On his journey, he discovers he is enough. Also plays Mr. D (aka Dionysus). Strong folk-pop tenor.

- ✓ Clarisse, Sally Jackson & Others – Backup singer in the band. Embodies a range of roles including Clarisse: daughter of Ares, Sally: Percy's hard-working mother, The Oracle, and a variety of other characters. Strong pop rock soprano with high belt.
- ✓ Mr. Brunner & Others – Backup singer in the band. Embodies a range of roles including Chiron: a wise centaur and part-time Latin teacher, Poseidon: god of the sea, Hades: god of the dead, and a variety of other characters. Strong pop rock bari-tenor.
- ✓ Luke & Others – Backup singer in the band. Embodies a range of roles including Luke: son of Hermes, Gabe: Percy's foul step-father, Ares: god of war, Charon: ferryman to the underworld, and Minotaur. Strong pop rock bari-tenor.

• ***Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience***

Based on the book by Mo Willems

Script and Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

1st Rehearsal 03/12/2024; Performs 04/02/2024-05/19/2024

Director: Amanda Kibler

A rockin' show about being comfortable in your own skin — or suit! Based on the beloved children's book by Mo Willems, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* is a charming rock 'n roll parable that uses energetic songs and quirky characters to encourage young audiences to embrace their originality. Wilbur and all his fellow naked mole rats in the Tunnel have always been, well... naked. Wondering about other possibilities, Wilbur discovers a love for wearing clothing. When word of his new passion for getting dressed turns the whole Tunnel upside down, Wilbur sets a new trend and proves to the world there's no need to be just like everyone else.

Adult Roles:

- ✓ Actor A - Plays Wilbur J. Mole Rat, Jr. Wilbur is the dreamer, always looking at the clouds when everyone else has tunnel vision. Sees the best (dressed) in everyone. Vocal range top: A4; Vocal range bottom: A2.
- ✓ Actor B - Plays Grande Mole Rat, H&M Singer. Grande is the popular kid and, consequently, the one with the most to lose. Any shift in the culture could threaten Grande's social dominance. Vocal range top: E5; Vocal range bottom: A3.
- ✓ Actor C - Plays Venti Mole Rat, H&M Singer. Venti is the enforcer. The colony is a tricky place to understand, and now that Venti does, the mole rat is scared of having to re-discover a new place in it. Vocal range top: E4; Vocal range bottom: E2.
- ✓ Actor D - Plays Tall Mole Rat, H&M Singer. Tall is a rule-follower with a heart of gold. Cannot reconcile the non-naked rules with her conscience and naked decency. Vocal range top: B5; Vocal range bottom: B3.
- ✓ Actor E - Plays Grand-Pah Mole Rat, Buck Naked, Naked Mole Rat 4, H&M Singer, Announcer. Grand-Pah is the moral authority, who is less interested in pomp than in

figuring out how to solve problems. Intimidating in the abstract, dyspeptic, and really old in reality. Buck Naked - One of the panicked spreaders of information and misinformation. They represent the mood of the larger tunnel culture. Vocal range top: G4; Vocal range bottom: E3.

- ✓ Actor F - Plays Weather Mole, Naked Mole Rat 5, H&M Singer, Potential Customer, Secret Service. (Weather Mole is one of the panicked spreaders of information and misinformation. They represent the mood of the larger tunnel culture. Secret Service Mole is dead serious, who quickly and magically transforms into a Hendrix/Joplin rocker, then back to dead serious.) Vocal range top: G5; Vocal range bottom: A#3.

• ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***

A new Theatre for Young Audiences version

Book by David Greig

Music by Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman

Based on the book by Roald Dahl

1st Rehearsal 06/04/2024; Performs 06/18/2024-08/04/2024

Director: TBD

The world-famous Willy Wonka is opening his marvelous and mysterious chocolate factory... but only to a lucky few! When Charlie Bucket and the others find their golden tickets, their boring lives explode with color and confections beyond their wildest dreams. Join Charlie, Violet, Augustus, Veruca, Violet, and Mike Teavee as they embark on a mesmerizing joyride through a world of pure imagination.

Based on the cherished novel by Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* features songs from the original motion picture, including Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley's "Candy Man," "I've Got a Golden Ticket," "Oompa Loompa Song," and "Pure Imagination." It also adds a magical original score composed by Marc Shaiman with lyrics by Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the wildly inventive writers of *Hairspray*.

Adult Roles:

- ✓ Willy Wonka
- ✓ Grandpa Joe
- ✓ Mrs. Bucket/Mrs. Green/Cherry/Oompa Loompa
- ✓ Grandma Josephine/Mrs. Gloop/Oompa Loompa
- ✓ Grandma Georgina/Mrs. Tevee/ Oompa Loompa
- ✓ Grandpa George/Mr. Salt/ Oompa Loompa
- ✓ Jerry/Mr. Beauregarde/ Oompa Loompa

Youth Roles (age 12 and up):

- ✓ Charlie (youth role)
- ✓ Violet Beauregarde/ Oompa Loompa (youth role)
- ✓ Augustus Gloop/ Oompa Loompa (youth role)
- ✓ Mike Tevee/ Oompa Loompa (youth role)
- ✓ Veruca Salt/Oompa Loompa (youth role)