

 Springer

# A TUNA CHRISTMAS



December 15 - 23, 2022

# A TUNA CHRISTMAS

Written By Ed Howard, Joe Sears, & Jaston Williams

Directed by **PAUL R. PIERCE**

Lighting Designer **KATIE UNDERWOOD**  
Costume Designer **ALEX ALLISON**  
Properties Designer **PATTI FENZEL**  
Sound Designer **JULIANNE SLATON**  
Director of Production **MATTHEW SWINDELL**  
Technical Director **WALTER PIGFORD**  
Stage Manager **MARIA SCOTT**  
Assistant Technical Director **DAVID JONES**  
Costume First Hand **MOLLIE LIPKOWITZ**  
Production Technician **SCOTTIE SCOTT**  
Production Associate **MH HARRISON**

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## ERIC R. BRIKING (Thurston Track)

Eric is excited to be back at the Springer and in the GREAT city of Columbus! First appearing on the Springer stage in 2004, his previous productions here include *Route 66* (Tenor 2), *Cotton Patch Gospel* (Road Manager), *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan), *Damn Yankees* (Coach), *Blues Brothers Revue* (Associate Producer). Recently, Eric has been involved in producing live events, and touring with various shows in different management capacities. Eric graduated from Northern Kentucky University with a BFA in Musical Theatre, and currently resides in Covington, KY. A big thanks to Liz who helped with and put up with him learning all these lines at all hours of the day!



## CASEY ROSS (Arles Track)

Casey is thrilled to be returning to the Springer once again for *A Tuna Christmas*! This production marks Casey's 11th appearance on the Springer stage, and his second straight year causing havoc in Tuna, TX. Favorite Springer credits include: *Route 66* (Tenor 2, the same role Eric Bricking played years earlier!), *The Producers* (Leo), *Avenue Q* (Princeton/Rod), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Max), *Barefoot in the Park* (Paul), *The Full Monty* (Malcolm), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere). A native of Dodge City, Kansas, Casey now lives in Chicago, where he has added several television, commercial, and voiceover credits to his name, including national ads for Nintendo, TurboTax, Wells Fargo, and Mike's Hard Lemonade. When not performing, Casey is a freelance digital artist and caricaturist - he is, in fact, the artist responsible for the ridiculously goofy promo artwork for *A Tuna Christmas*! To Brie, literally ALL the love. How did I do this without you before?! To Reggie: Off the chair. To Little: Eat your food! IG: @caseface\_graphics





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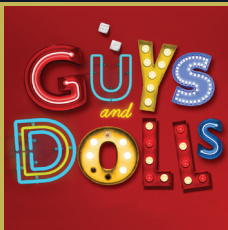
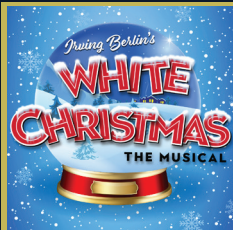
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# PRODUCTION BIOS

**Paul R. Pierce (Director)** has led the Springer Opera House as producing artistic director since 1988, taking the State Theatre of Georgia to new artistic heights while expanding its audience and influence throughout the nation. The Springer has conducted major facility expansions and historic preservation projects under Paul's leadership and established the Springer as a leader in Columbus' economic, tourism and film industry development. For 34 years, Paul has directed and produced more than 300 comedies, dramas and musicals at the Springer. A Rome, Georgia native with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Georgia, he is an Equity actor who has performed in over 1,000 American and Canadian cities with stock, regional, touring and children's theatre companies. He is the former associate director at Repertory Theatre of America, the former managing director of Virginia's Wayside Theatre and the former producing artistic director at the Harbor Playhouse in Corpus Christi, Texas. Paul is the author of nine plays and *The Springer Ghost Book*.

**Maria Scott (Stage Manager)** is a senior at Columbus State set to graduate in Spring 2023 and this is her fifth show here at the Springer, though her first as the stage manager. She is from Conyers, Georgia and she hopes you enjoy your trip to Tuna!

**Patti Jo Fenzel (Properties Designer)** earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology from CSU in 2010 and has worked in theaters around the country including Florida Repertory Theater, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Opera New Jersey.

**Katie Underwood (Lighting Designer)** is a senior member of the Springer artistic staff responsible for casting and contracting production personnel for all mainstage and studio productions. She is also one of several directors on our staff with past credits including *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Great Gatsby*. Katie serves as the primary lighting designer for productions taking place in our McClure Theatre with favorite designs including *Ace: The Eugene Bullard Story*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Mother of Rain*. She is a Springer Theatre Academy alumni and a graduate of the CSU with a BFA in theatre design and technology. Katie recently completed her MBA from Kennesaw State University. She is an avid runner and fitness enthusiast. When not in rehearsal or doing school work, Katie enjoys spending time with her husband and two girls. If she's not at work or at home, she's probably at the gym.

**Matthew Swindell (Director of Production)** is the Springer's Director of Production. He graduated from Columbus State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology. He has worked on many Springer productions over the past ten years in a variety of different roles including Director, Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Technical Director, and Road Manager for the Springer's touring company, Springer Theatricals. You may also remember Matthew from his time on stage as Teddy Roosevelt in the Springer's 2017 production of *Newsies*.

**Julianne Slaton (Sound Designer/Audio Engineer)** earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design & Technology at Columbus State University with a proficiency in Sound Design. She started at the Springer as a volunteer and transitioned to working here full time on our 2015 production of *A Chorus Line*. She has since enjoyed working as sound designer on almost every Springer production since, as well as completing her first professional scenic design for the Academy's production of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*.

**Alex Allison (Costume Designer)** grew up in Lincoln, NE and began performing at local community theatres at a young age. His favorite costume and wig design credits include *Grease* and *Stardust Road* at Temple Theatre in Sanford, NC; *Hairspray* at Pinewood Bowl Inc. in Lincoln NE; *Guys and Dolls* at The Stage Theater in Hickman, NE; *Wigs for Bonnie and Clyde* at The Stage Theater in Hickman, NE; *The Drowsy Chaperone* at The Monomoy Theatre in Chatham, MA; and *The Fantasticks* at The Monomoy Theatre in Chatham, MA. Alex has been working as a costume and wig designer across the US and also worked with Norwegian Cruise Lines as a Production Wardrobe Supervisor.

**Walter Pigford (Technical Director)** is excited to join the Springer team. He is from Georgia, graduating from Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus (previously known as Armstrong State University) with a BA in theater. After graduating he lived in NYC for 4 years working on the Off-Broadway circuit and working full time as the Assistant Technical Director at Pace University. He has worked at various regional theaters around the country but is glad to be back in his home state bringing theater to the Columbus community.



THE



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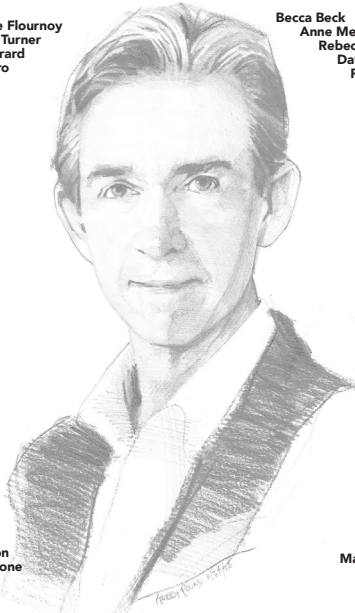
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**Landmark Operations Director.....James Clark**  
**Guest Services .....Velvet Smiley, CJ Jackson**

**WE AT THE SPRINGER WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GREAT RESPECT THAT THE LAND UPON WHICH WE ARE FORTUNATE TO MAKE ART IS THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) PEOPLE, WHO DOMINATED THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THIS CONTINENT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.**

**AS MUSCOGEE LAND IN NORTH GEORGIA AND ALABAMA WAS GRADUALLY SEIZED AND SETTLED, THE PEOPLE FROM THE UPPER MUSCOGEE CHIEFDOM OF COOSA JOINED THEIR COUSINS IN THE LOWER MUSCOGEE CHIEFDOM OF COWETA BEFORE MOST WERE FINALLY REMOVED TO OKLAHOMA BY THE U.S. ARMY IN 1836-37.**

**THE SPRINGER IS ADJACENT TO “MOTHER TOWN” COWETA AND “DAUGHTER TOWN” CUSSETA, TWO ANCIENT CENTERS OF MUSCOGEE CULTURE.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSCOGEE PEOPLE CAN BE FOUND AT [MUSCOGENATION.COM](http://MUSCOGENATION.COM) or [LOWERMUSKOGETRIBE.COM](http://LOWERMUSKOGETRIBE.COM)**



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