PLAYBILL

Clifton Hlah School Auditorium The Theater League of Clifton Clifton, NJ



Presents...

2023



Book & Lyrics: Chad Beguelin Book: Bob Martin Music: Matthew Skylar

Director: Lisa Poggi Choreographer: Judi Layne Niebuhr

July 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 Fridays & Saturdays - 7:30pm

Sundays - 2:00pm Clifton High School Auditorium

333 Colfax Ave., Clifton, NJ 07013

Tickets:

Tickets can be purchased in advance online, by phone or mail

www.theaterleagueofclifton.com

Adults-

\$20 -Advance \$25 -Door

Seniors/Students-\$15 -Advance \$20 -Door

973-928-7668 PO Box 4072. Clifton, NJ 07012

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This program is funded, in part, through a grant from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.



CAST

(In order of appearance)

Olivia Keating/ Ensemble	Olivia Keating/ EnsembleNicole Henry		
Dee Dee Allen	•		
Barry Glickman			
Sheldon			
Trent Oliver	•		
Angie	Paige Matt		
Mrs. Greene/ Godspell	_		
Emma Nolan	Kendal Walls		
Mr. Hawkins	Zack Papianni		
Kaylee	Bethany Duffy		
Shelby	Danielle Nelken		
Alyssa Greene	Sandy Cocoyutla		
Nick	Shiloh Pino		
Kevin	Aidan Robinson		
Teen Ensemble	Lillianna Velez		
	Hailey DeSaro		
	Shiloh Colon		
	Bella Andino Casey Wellins		
	Amy Majewski		
	Francheska Hernandez Brea		
	Leo Papp		
	Martin Arias		
Ensemble/ Godspell	Josephine Perez		
	Shannon Dooley		
	Donna Bialkin		
	Sabrina Walch		
Ensemble/ Coach			
Ensemble	Lissette Bautista		

ORCHESTRA

Reed 1	Matt Amato
Reed 2	Ron Chat
Piano	Abram Foster
Keyboard 2	Leah Frank
Violin 1	Christian Rodriguez
Violin 2	Jordan Valiquette
Cello	Liam Reilly
Trumpet 1	Ryan Barry (21-23) John Rivas (14-16)
Trumpet 2	John Rivas (14-16) Jorge Rivas (21-23)
Trombone	Ryan Haupt
Guitar	Bob Fugel
Bass Guitar	Adrien Synnott
Drums	Luke Kulesa
Percussion	Lucas Waitkus

Director - Lisa Poggi

Producers -

Mark Peterson, John Traier

Musical Director- Mackenzie Miller

Choreographer- Judi Layne Niebuhr

Stage Manager- JoAnne MacBeth

Assistant Stage Manager - Cameron Villanueva

Set Construction - Jonathan Wellins

Costumer - Amy Kurfist

Prop Master - Nazli Yildiz

Public Relations - Michael Gabriele

Sponsorship - Rosemary Pino

CREW

Jose Adino	Joseph Oliver	Tina Robinson
Rey Cobarrubias	Miles Pino-Oliver	Grace Romano
Justin Hernandez	Scott Robinson	Alyssa Vazquez

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

"Changing Lives" - Dee Dee, Barry, Ensemble "Changing Lives" (Reprise) - Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, Trent

"Just Breathe" - Emma

"It's Not About Me" - Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, Trent,

Ensemble

"Dance with You" - Emma, Alyssa

"The Acceptance Song"- Trent, Dee Dee, Barry, Angie,

Ensemble

"You Happened" - Emma, Alyssa, Ensemble

"We Look to You" - Mr. Hawkins

"Tonight Belongs to You" - Barry, Emma, Mrs. Greene,

Ensemble

Act Two

Entr'acte - Orchestra

"Zazz" - Angie, Emma

"The Lady's Improving" - Dee Dee

"Love Thy Neighbor" - Trent, Ensemble

"Alyssa Greene" - Alyssa
"Barry Is Going to Prom" - Barry

"Unruly Heart" - Emma, Ensemble

"Changing Lives" (reprise) - Barry, Angie, Dee Dee, Trent,

Sheldon, Mr. Hawkins

"It's Time to Dance"- Emma, Alyssa, Company

Special Thanks

Mary Mitchell Deborah Poggi Clifton BOE

Danielle Faber Macedonio Tom Cutalo Living Hope

Linda Gage Krewer Dawn Toussas Presbyterian Church

Tina & Scott Robinson Jonathan Wellins JoAnne MacBeth

Clifton HS Custodial Staff Kristy Wellins John Lavender

A Message from the President...



The goal of the Theater League of Clifton has been to promote the arts in Clifton and we (TLC) are well pleased with the progress we have made these past 18 years. Each year we (TLC) take the next big step to stage another production, whether it is a dinner theater

production at Mario's, a cabaret at the Clifton arts center and Clifton Elks, or our outdoor concerts at Weasel Brook Park. Over the years, we have staged over 17 musicals and promoted stars such as Rachael Ziegler, who starred as Maria in the remake of the movie "West Side Story". Rachel dazzled audiences in in our productions of "Fiddler "and "Millie". As you will witness shortly, perhaps there is another star on the rise. We'll let you be the judge. "The Prom" is another show that we have chosen to stage based on a true story and thought provoking, with a message. In the past we have stage "Dead Man Walking" and The "Laramie Project".

Our objective, is to stay current and in the mainstream as we welcome feedback from our audiences when possible. At times we choose materials that will allow the audience to perhaps reexamine some important issues that still exist in today's society.

Special Thank You: Dr. Danny A. Robertozzi and Principal Ahmad Hamdeh, Lisa, Judi, Mackenzie, Joanne and John.

Mark Peterson, President Theater League of Clifton



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Thank you to our sponsors for your continued support!



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THE CITY OF CLIFTON EXTENDS OUR BEST WISHES
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THE PROM!



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CITY MANAGER DOMINICK VILLANO
MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY MATTHEW T. PRIORE

Biography of Who's Who....



Bella Andino (Ensemble) is beyond ecstatic to be part of the Theatre League of Clifton's production of "The Prom"! This is her second musical, her previous show was "CHI-CAGO": Teen Edition, where she played Go-to-hell Kitty. Bella has always been into theatre and acting and just recently broke out of her shell and got comfortable with performing on stage in front of so many people. She would like to thank Lisa, Mackenzie, Judi, and everyone else involved for the amazing opportunity. She would also like to thank her fellow cast members, the crew, directors, and her friends and family for supporting her. Tonight belongs to us!

Martin Arias (Ensemble) This is his 2nd musical show with the Theatre League of Clifton. He first joined his Musical in CHS, Starring: "Chicago". Martin has also joined another Musical in his Middle School years called: "The Little Mermaid Jr." Whenever Martin is free or not doing any dance practices, Martin is a Digital Artist who likes to post their art onto the Internet for others to enjoy. Martin is just so excited to join another Musical and is Happy to dance and sing for the audience for the 2nd time! A big thanks to Lisa, Mackenzie, JoAnne, Judy, Petunia, and the crew / cast for being awesome and hardworking! Enjoy the show, folks!





Lissette Bautista (Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of The Prom! at the Theater League of Clifton. Lissette holds a BA in Psychology and a minor in Music from Rutgers University, while currently pursuing a master's in Counseling at Montclair State University. She achieved notable accomplishments, including being the first runner-up in the adult category of Perth Amboy Community Theater's singing competition, The Voice. Lissette has performed in various productions such as "Godspell", "Bonnie & Clyde", Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella", and "Beauty and the Beast". She is grateful for the unwavering support from her family and the cast.

Jennifer Berta (Mrs Greene/ Godspell) is thrilled to be a part of TLC's production of "The Prom". After a 25 year hiatus, Jennifer returned to community theater last summer as Jack's Mother in "Into The Woods" at Pax Amicus Theater in Budd Lake. Other notable performances include Reno Sweeney in "Anything Goes", Sarah Brown in "Guys & Dolls", Susan in Company, Hermia in "A Midsummer's Night Dream" and Cecily Cardew in "The Importance of Being Earnest". Jennifer would like to thank her family and friends for being so loving, encouraging and supportive as she re-enters the world of community theater.

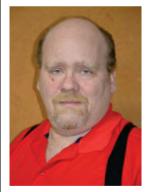




Donna Bialkin (Ensemble/ Godspell) is most often seen dancing at Infinite Motion Performing Arts Academy. Theatre credits: JCC ("Brighton Beach Memoirs" - Blanche), Old Library Theatre (one-act plays, "Sweet Charity", "Arsenic & Old Lace", "Pippin", "Amadeus") Rhino Theatre ("Rent", "The Glass Slipper", "Dracula", "Spamalot", "42nd Street", "Guys & Dolls", "Le Femmes de Broadway", "Le Femmes and Men de Broadway".) After getting her degree in theatre from Rutgers, Donna taught and directed the theatre program at Westwood HS for 19 years, during which she produced, directed & choreographed 38 productions. She would like to thank everyone involved with this production for this opportunity.

Ed Bialkin (Ensemble/Coach) After directing 28 high school and middle school plays and musicals, Ed is most often seen directing in community theatre. Credits include Old Library Theatre: "Prisoner of Love", "The Next Ivan Sharansky", "Person in Charge", "Arsenic and Old Lace"; The Rhino Theatre ("The Glass Slipper", "Rent", and "Dracula"). Recent acting credits at OLT include "Amadeus" (Count Orsini-Rosenberg) and "Catch of the Day" (Edwin). Ed was set designer and construction director for high school productions (Orange HS, Pascack Hills HS, Westwood HS, Pascack Valley HS) and several shows at The Rhino Theatre.





Stephen Burke (Sheldon) is thrilled to be returning to the TLC stage. He was previously in "Jesus Christ Superstar" (Priest) and "Oliver!" (Mr. Bumble). Other credits include Zebulum in "Joseph... Dreamcoat" (North Star) Greg in "Sylvia" (North Star) King Arthur in "Spamalot" (Main Street) and Adult Man in "Spring Awakening" (Dover Little Theater and Round Table). He has also appeared in "Camelot" (North Star), "Shrek" (North Star) and "Annie" (Pixie Dust) Thank you to everyone who has worked tirelessly to make this show possible. Love you Mom!

Sandy Cocoyutla (Alyssa Greene) is very excited to take part in her very first production with the Theatre League of Clifton! Sandy is extremely grateful for the opportunity to play Alyssa Greene alongside a wonderful cast. She has recently worked with Seton Hall Prep as Helen in "Bye Bye Birdie", and with Clifton High School as Mrs.Potts in "Beauty and the Beast" and Featured Ensemble in "9 to 5". She would love to thank her family and friends for supporting her passions, and to all of the directors, crew and actors for working so hard to make this show amazing.





Shiloh Colon (Ensemble) This is Shilohs first show with Theatre League of Clifton. She got her start in theatre in 9th grade with her first production with the bold, the young, and the murder. Shiloh has been in 1 musical called "Chicago" and one play called "The bold, the young and the murder." She is very excited for this Musical and wants to thank everybody for giving her the chance and wished them all the luck!

Hailey DeSaro (Maggie) is very honored to be chosen for the Theater League of Clifton's production "The Prom". This is Hailey's 10th musical she's been a part of. This past school year, Hailey was in the CHS production of "Chicago Teen Edition" as one of the Featured Ensemble members. In 8th grade she played Miss Hannigan in WWMS's production of "Annie Jr." Prior that summer, she played Elsa in "Frozen Kids" in the ISEE program. She would like to thank Ms. Poggi, Mackenzie, and Judi for teaching her everything she needs to know to make this musical the best. Break a leg everyone!





Shannon Dooley (Ensemble/Godspell just completed her ninth year teaching Math at Carteret High School, where she serves as an advisor of the CHS Drama Club. Shannon earned her Bachelor's Degree in Math Education from TCNJ in 2014, and her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Kean University in 2021. Her previous performing credits include "Anything Goes", "Pippin", "Hello, Dolly!", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", "The Drowsy Chaperone", and "Footloose". Her directing credits include "High School Musical", "In the Heights", "Once on This Island", "Chicago", and "Pippin". She would like to thank her family, friends, and fiance for their never-ending love and support!

Bethany Duffy (Kaylee) is a 14 year old rising freshman at Nutley High School and cannot wait to pursue performing arts there as well! She is so excited to take the TLC stage again after previously performing in "Oliver" (2019) and "Waiting for Christmas" (2020). Additional credits include: Cinderella (Into the Woods Jr.), Madame de la Grande Bouche (Beauty and the Beast Jr.), Anna (Frozen Jr.), Cinderella (Cinderella Jr.), and recently, a performer at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in NYC. When not on stage, she enjoys doing makeup, playing piano/ukulele, and hanging out with friends. Break a leg everyone!





Nicole Henry (Olivia Keating/Godspell) is thrilled to be in her first show at the Theater League of Clifton with this fantastic fun loving cast. She was last seen in the Velveteen Rabbit and "Juliet" in Central Park West both at Bergen County Players. She also has performed as a "Follies girl" with Leonia Players Guild in Follies. She thanks the cast for their kindness and willingness to work together so efficiently.

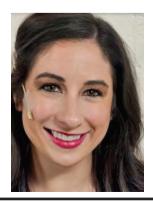
Francheska Hernandez Brea (Ensemble) is sophomore that attends chs. This is her first time ever working in a theatre production and she's really exited to be a part of it. She might be a bit awkward or nervous sometimes, but she's got the spirit.





Amy Majewski (Ensemble) is a rising junior and she is excited to make their debut with the Clinton's theater league. She has done productions with the Glenridge drama club where they have played Queen Constina in "Cinderella", Charlie Halloran in "Miracle on 34th Street", and Candy Kaffka in "Talk About a Murder". She has also done shows with Nicori Studios where they have played Berthe in "Pippin" Madame D'arque in "Beauty and the Beast", and Mrs. Mayor in "Seussical". Amy also writes music and has worked as an assistant musical director on Ridgewood Avenue Schools productions of Legally Blonde and Descendents.

Paige Matt (Angie) is thrilled to be back on stage in her first musical since college. She enjoys being able to fuse her passions for diversity and equity in education and theater into her career as a Kindergarten teacher, and as the director and choreographer for the musical productions in Springfield for the last six years. A huge thank you to the Theater League of Clifton for giving her the opportunity to perform in this hilarious role in such a meaningful show. All the love in the world to her little family; her fiancée Lindsey and her dog Gemma.





Danielle Nelken (Shelby) has been singing and acting her whole life but never on a stage. During the pandemic she took vocal lessons online from Ms. Cheryl Porter, improving her singing and earning her this role. In 2018 she placed 2nd in NJ for the Speech and Theater Association of New Jersey (STANJ) Dramatic Monologue Award. She is currently a senior at MSU enrolled in the American Sign Language Interpreting Program. She is happy to be sharing the stage with talented people who share a common love for theatre. She thanks her Mom & Dad, sister Abby, brother Ben, and dog Lucky for loving her and put-

Aaron Noriega (Trent Oliver) Favorite roles: Hysterium (Forum), Dodger (Oliver!), Adam (Children of Eden), and Orsino (Twelfth Night). They are honored to serve as the House Manager on the OLT Board. Opera credits: Collatinus in Lucretia (MSU), Fidelio (Princeton Festival) and Jackie O (OCU, National Opera Awards 1st place). Graduated Magna Cum Laude, MA in Music Education from MSU, and will be starting as an elementary school music teacher in September. Thanks their parents and Sonia for being so supportive and always encouraging them to follow their dreams. From this Ugly Duckling to the next, always remember: Different is just, well, different!





Zach "Ares" Papianni (Mr Hawkins) is over the moon to be in his first TLC production. A modern Renaissance man, Zack has written and published short fiction, produced radio programs, edited popular podcasts, released rock albums, and on Thursdays he sleeps in. Zack would like to specifically tell the actress playing "Dee-Dee" that he will always "look to you" just as he did when he asked her to prom all those years ago, and just as he did when he said "I do." Also, he hopes the person reading this will get some snacks already. You're worth it. Get yourself some Skittles. Love, Zack.

Leo Papp (Drew) this is Leo's first time at the Theater League of Clifton. This is also his first time being in musical but not the first time being involved in one. He did stage crew for "Into the Woods jr" for CCMS 2022. After seeing the amazing production of "Into the Woods" he was inspired to join a cast of a musical or play so he joined Clifton High School's Drama class where he found out about "The Prom". He is very proud of the cast and crew, and thank you so much to Ms. Poggi, Judy, JoAnne, Mackenzie, and Petunia!





Josephine Perez (Ensemble/Godspell) This is Josephine's first show with Theater League and excited to be apart of it. She has been doing Theatre for fifteen and half years. She has done productions with Emerson Junior/Senior High School, Y Arts Theatre Company, Toomfoolery Theatre, Rosen Performing Arts Center, Teaneck New Theatre, Studio Players, and Old Library Theatre. Favorite productions include "Mr. Cinders", "The Sound of Music", "Miracle on 34th Street", "The Music Man" "Seussical", "Willy Wonka", "Mary Poppins", "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", "The Wizard of Oz", "Footloose", "Shrek", and many others. She is excited to perform with the cast in "The Prom".

Shiloh Pino (Nick/Ensemble) This is Shiloh's second show with TLC and she is extremely excited! She is an upcoming sophomore in PCTI's Theatre program working hard to become a TV actress! Some productions she has been in include, "Oliver", "Mary Poppins", "A Corpse Bride" and many small theatre productions. She is extremely excited to be in the show!





Aidan Robinson (Kevin) s delighted to be making his debut with the Clifton Theater League. Aidan's most Recent credits include Amos in Chicago, Dwayne in 9 to 5 and his favorite role as Gaston in Beauty and the Beast. Aidan also just received a College scholarship from the Clifton Theatre League. He will be attending MSU in the fall majoring in Education with a minor in theater.

Sam Szentmik (Dee Dee Allen) is excited to be a part of her first TLC production! Previous credits include "Urinetown" (Little Becky Two Shoes), "Much Ado About Nothing" (Don Pedro), and "Arsenic and Old Lace" (Officer O'Hara). When not doing stage things, Sam is a full-time animator and online content creator. She is so excited to be sharing the stage with her husband, Zack, for the second time! Previous credit with husband (is that a thing?) includes "Sweet Charity" (Daddy Brubeck & Elaine). A big thank you to Lisa, Mackenzie, JoAnn, Judy, Petunia, the crew, and the cast for being awesome!





David Toussas (Barry Glickman) is very excited to make his debut with Theater League of Clifton! Recently seen in The Barn Theatre's "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum" (a Protean), and OLT's, "The Prom" (Parent Ensemble). Favorite roles include "SpongeBob The Musical" (Mr. Krabs), "Beauty and the Beast" (Maurice) - Rosen Performing Arts Center, "Kiss Me, Kate" (Gen. Harrison Howell) - Madison Public Theatre, "Wait Until Dark" (Sergeant Carlino) -Rhino 237. Dave has also performed at the Barn Theatre in "A Christmas Crisis" and "War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast". Dave would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support!

Lillianna Velez (Ensemble) has been in "The Little Mermaid", "Annie", and "Into the Woods" and is excited to be a part of this performance!





Sabrina Walch (Ensemble) majored in classical bassoon performance at NYU, and now works full time in her woodwind repair studio. Her last production was "Annie" in the 3rd grade, and then life happened, but she's super excited to jump back into it!

Kendal Walls (Emma) is thrilled to be part of the Theatre League of Clifton's production of The Prom. She is a rising senior at MKA and has been doing shows since 7th grade. Some previous roles include Alyssa Greene(The Prom), Nostradamus(Something Rotten), Patrice(13), and Wednesday Addams(The Addams Family). She would like thank her fellow cast and crew members as well as Lisa, Judi, Mackenzie, and JoAnne for their dedication to this amazing show. She also wants to give a special thanks to her family and friends who supported her every step of the way. She hopes you enjoy the show!





Casey Wellins (Ensemble) is excited to be part of the Clifton Theater League's production of The Prom. She is a rising Senior at Clifton High School where she is a majorette in the Marching Band and a varsity member of the Girls Lacrosse Team. She has been in several theater productions including "Chicago: Teen Edition" (Mary Sunshine), "Beauty and the Beast" (Chip), "Snow White" (Snow White), "Oliver" (Charley Bates), and more. She would like to thank her fellow cast members, the crew, directors, and her family for supporting her dreams. She wishes the best of luck to the cast!

Lisa Poggi (Director) is excited to be directing for the first time with the Theater League of Clifton! She has been the director at Clifton High School since 2016. Big thanks to Judi, Mackenzie, JoAnne, John, Mark, and Jalm! It's been great working with you all! Congratulations to the cast and crew! When in doubt, just give it some Zazz! Break legs! Tonight belongs to YOU!





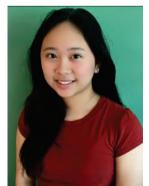
Mackenzie Miller(Musical Director) is thrilled to be a part of her first TLC Show. A graduate from The College of New Jersey with her Bachelors in Music Education, She is currently a high school music teacher in New Jersey and Master's student at Teachers College, Columbia University. Past credits include performing in many pits for shows across the tri-state area and Music Director for TCNJ's student run theater TMT's production of "Little Women" in the Fall of 2021. When asked to be the MD for this show, she was humbled as she was once a student under Lisa Poggi and in her CHS debut production of "Into the Woods" as Cinderella. She has enjoyed this experience immensely and knows the cast will rock it on stage! She would like to thank Lisa, Judi, Joanne, and the cast for their continued support during this experience. As always, she dedicates this show to her non-verbal brother Joshua. See you at "The Prom!"



Judi Layne Niebuhr (Choreographer) is thrilled to be returning to TLC for the 7th time! Previous choreography credits for TLC include "Godspell", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", "Cabaret", and "Little Shop of Horrors". Other credits include "Beauty and the Beast" (River Dell High School), "All Shook Up" (Nutley Parks Dept and Roche Players), "A Christmas Carol" (Nutley Parks) and "Children of Eden" (Roche Players). She also loves performing; her favorite roles include Ella in "Bells are Ringing" and Nancy in "Oliver!" Judi would like to thank Lisa, Mackenzie, JoAnne, and the wonderful cast and crew for their dedication and support.

Joanne MacBeth (Stage Manager) Despite a theater degree from NYU, and notable dance teachers such as Phil Black and Frank Hatchett, JoAnne spent the better part of the last three decades building a computer consulting, teaching and graphic design business. She also worked as a gun violence prevention activist and led a group of progressive activists in Northern NJ.She has not been involved in theatre since the early 90's when she played The Stepsister in "Into The Woods" and Lady Brockhurst in "The Boyfriend." She also originated the role of HB in an off-off Broadway production of "Tuesday in No Man's Land" for the Riant Theater in NYC. This is her first time working with the Clifton Theatre League. Life's no dress rehearsal





Cameron Villanueva (Assistant Stage Manager)
This is Cameron's first show with Theatre League of Clifton.
She has been in Annie, The Lion King, The Young, the Bold, and the Murdered, and Chicago for stage managing, dancing, and choreographing. (Woodrow Wilson Middle School,, ISEE, and Clifton High school) She is excited to be backstage and work with the cast and wants to thank everyone for their hard work and support and hopes you enjoy the show.

Tickets on sale now for our upcoming joint fundraiser.

