

NightwoodTheatre  presents the 16th annual Lawyer Show



Annie

BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN

MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE

LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN

BASED ON "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE"® BY PERMISSION OF TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC

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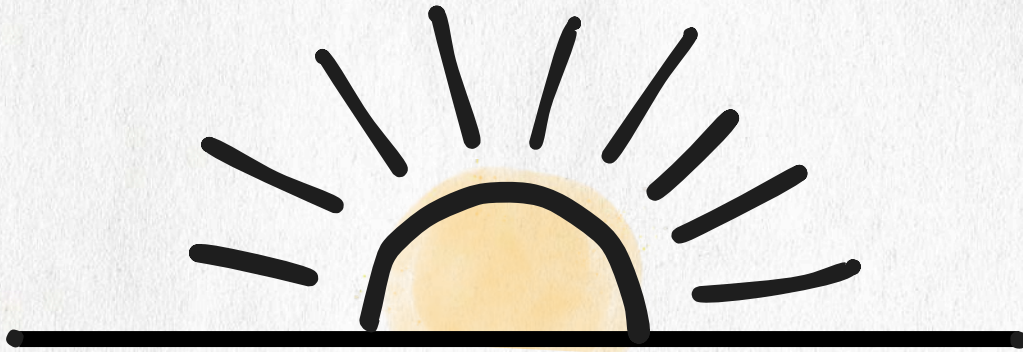
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



In the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, Nightwood Theatre acknowledges the land on which our work is created and where our offices are located is the traditional territory of many Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge them and any other Nations who care for the land (acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded) as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land, the traditional territory named Tkarón:to, the Mohawk word for "the place in the water where the trees are standing." The treaty for this particular parcel of land (Treaty 13), collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase, applies to lands east of Brown's Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land. We commit ourselves to addressing and disrupting the systems of oppression and the colonial forces that undermine, distort, or erase the vital role of Indigenous peoples and recognize stewardship as a shared responsibility of all those who reside in a territory, as is the spirit of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement.

- Nightwood Theatre

ABOUT THE LAWYER SHOW

The Lawyer Show is the main annual fundraiser for **Nightwood Theatre**, a registered charitable organization and Canada's preeminent feminist theatre since 1979. Every year, over 35 members of the legal community rehearse for three months to mount an exhilarating, entertaining, professionally led musical. Since the Lawyer Show's inception in 2010, some 300 legal professionals have appeared in 16 different productions to raise more than \$1,300,000 in support of Nightwood.

This year, we're excited to present **ANNIE** – The irrepressible comic strip heroine takes center stage in one of the world's best-loved musicals.

Thank you to tonight's lawyers, sponsors, advertisers, donors and auction prize donors, and of course, to you, our wonderful audience, for helping to make the Lawyer Show such an incredible success!

ANNIE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Performance runs approximately 2.5 hours with one intermission.

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Rona Ghanbari!

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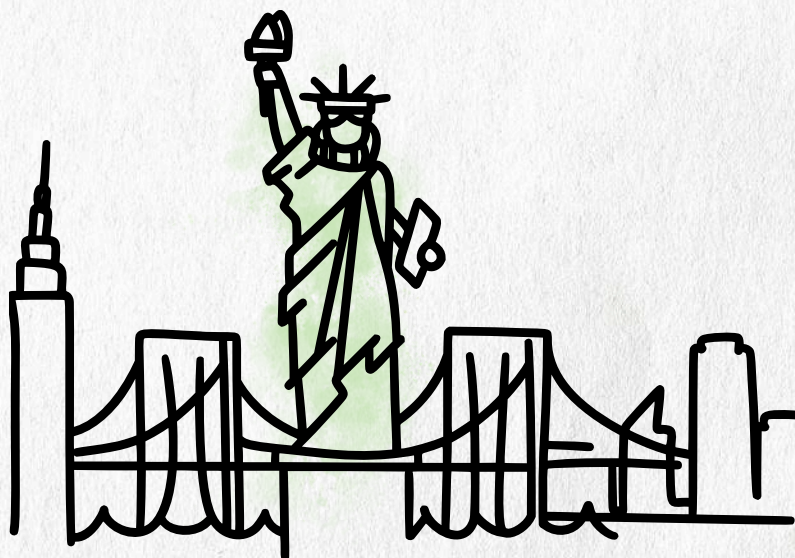
2025 LAWYER SHOW COMMITTEE

Edina Cavalli, Richard Chan, Sheila Gibbs, Devin Jarcaig,
Heidi LeBlanc, Kaja Marinic, Kate McNeece Cruess

Wishing the
Lawyer Show
team a wonderful
run of Annie!



**EPSTEIN
COLE** LLP



ANNIE



Book by
Thomas Meehan

Music by
Charles Strouse

Lyrics by
Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by
Martin Charnin

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"®
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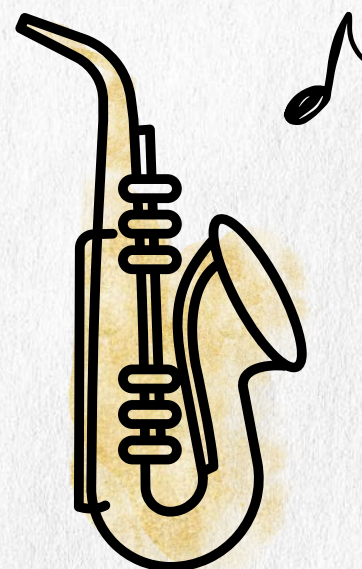
Andrea Donaldson* Director
Athena So Music Director
Brittany Banks* Choreographer
Amanda Wong 黄婷婷 Set & Costume Designer
Andrea Nelson Lighting Designer
Pip Bradford Production Manager
Ashley Elliott Stage Manager
Nika Jalali Rehearsal Stage Manager & Assistant Stage Manager
Andrew Wong Props Builder
Lee Stone Shadow Director and Fight & Puppet Consultant
Alyssa Ruddock Shadow Production Manager & Production Assistant
Kayley Duff Vocal Coach

* The participation of this Artist (these Artists) is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy (DOT).



BAND

Athena So Keyboard/Conductor
Stewart Cruikshank Trombone
Alex Latoche ... Clarinet/Bass Clarinet/Tenor Saxophone
Mark Masur Drums
John McGowan Bass Guitar
Joshua Zung Clarinet/Soprano & Alto Saxophone



Originally Produced at The Goodspeed Opera House, Michael P. Price, Executive Director. Presented on Broadway by Mike Nichols. Produced by Irwin Meyer, Stephen R. Friedman, Lewis Allen, Alvin Nederlander Associates Inc, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Icarus Productions.

CAST

Rona Ghanbari – Stikeman Elliott	ANNIE
David Mills – Mills & Mills LLP	OLIVER WARBUCKS
Olivia Nieuwland – Goldenberg & Co. P.C.	GRACE FARRELL
Kate McNeece Cruess – Goodmans LLP	MISS HANNIGAN
Joseph Cuyegkeng – Spin Master	ROOSTER HANNIGAN
Courtney Evans	LILY ST. REGIS
Richard Chan 陳駿華 – CBC / Radio-Canada	F.D. ROOSEVELT/LT. WARD
Joe McGrade – Blakes	BERT HEALY
Heather Paterson – Shibley Righton LLP	FRED MCCRACKEN
Kaja Marinic – Pro Bono Students Canada, U of T	BOYLAN SISTER
Tracy Pratt	BOYLAN SISTER
Jennifer Whincup – Altus Group	BOYLAN SISTER
Lucie Zhang – Lifetime Developments	MOLLY
Heidi LeBlanc – Carters Professional Corporation	KATE
Ari Sterlin – Artist Management Inc.	TESSIE
Clare Mauro – Torys	PEPPER
Lape Adeniran – Mackenzie Investments	DUFFY
Stephanie Kay – Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP	JULY
Allison Pressé – SBA Lawyers LLP	MRS. GREER
Elizabeth Moore – Ministry of the Attorney General	MRS. PUGH
Christine Doucet – Office of the Children’s Lawyer	CECILE
Paloma Alaminos – Ursel Phillips Fellows Hopkinson LLP	ANNETTE
Tracy Bardell – College of Nurses of Ontario	JUDGE BRANDEIS
Greg Miller	DRAKE
Devin Jarcaig – Mathers McHenry & Co	ANNOUNCER (Cameo)

ORPHAN ENSEMBLE

Brennan Caldwell – Litera
Arielle Di Iulio Elias – Mills & Mills LLP
Olivia Pomajba – CICC
Emma Romano – WeirFoulds LLP

HOOVERVILLE-ITE/STAFF/CABINET ENSEMBLE:

Chandler Buchanan – Monique Lafontaine Communications
 & Entertainment Law
Edina Cavalli – CIBC
Allison Cormie-Bowins – Newman Barristers
Bennett Jensen – Egale Canada
Raha Khatib – Kronis Rotsztain Margles Cappel LLP
Lessa Nosko



ABOUT ANNIE

Based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, Annie has become a worldwide phenomenon and was the winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The beloved book and score by Tony Award winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, features some of the greatest musical theatre hits ever written, including "Tomorrow."

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage that is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. With the help of the other girls in the Orphanage, Annie escapes to the wondrous world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations... and even befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt! She finds a new home and family in billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

***Performance runs
approximately 2.5 hours
with one intermission.***



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SONG LIST

ACT I

Overture

Maybe

Hard Knock Life

Hard Knock Life (Reprise)

Tomorrow

Hooverville

Little Girls

Little Girls (Reprise)

I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here

N.Y.C.

Easy Street

You Won't Be An Orphan For Long

ACT II

N.Y. Entr'acte

Fully Dressed

Fully Dressed (Children)

Easy Street (Reprise)

Cabinet Tomorrow

Cabinet End

Something Was Missing

I Don't Need Anything But You

Same Effect on Everyone

A New Deal for Christmas

Tomorrow

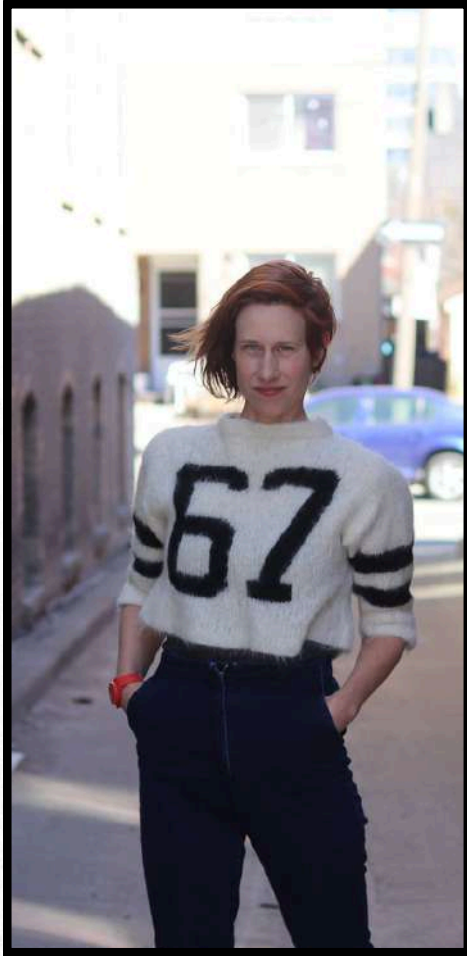
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FCT is **proud to sponsor**
the 2025 Lawyer Show.

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CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



Andrea Donaldson – Director

Born and raised in Toronto, Andrea Donaldson has directed productions for theatres across the country including Soulpepper, Factory Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Theatre Direct, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Festival Players in Prince Edward County, NTS, Summerworks, St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare in the Ruff, Espace René-Provost, Toronto Fringe, Red Sky Performance, and Nightwood Theatre. For two decades, Donaldson has played a pivotal role in fostering new works for the stage, both in her role as Tarragon's Associate Artistic Director and as the program Director for Nightwood Theatre's Write From The Hip program – a unit for exceptional emerging playwrights, in which she developed Rose Napoli's *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*, *Grace by Jane Doe*, and *Every Day She Rose* by Andrea Scott and Nick Green.

Andrea was invited into The Stratford Festival's Michael Langham Workshop in Classical Direction, and was honoured with Stratford's Jean Gascon Award for Direction. She won the Best Director Award at the International Youth Drama Month in Shenzhen, China for *Mistatim*, which has played to over 750,000 children internationally. Andrea has been nominated twice each for the Pauline McGibbon Award, the John Hirsch Directing Award and the Gina Wilkinson Award, as well as for several Dora Awards. Andrea received a Dora Award for Outstanding Performance & Outstanding Production for performing in the Urge Collective collaboration *And By the Way, Miss* (Theatre Direct).

EASY ST

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Athena So – Music Director

Athena So is a music director, pianist, and arts educator based in Toronto. She has played for companies including Mirvish, Shaw Festival, Musical Stage Co., and The Second City. Most recently, Athena was the Music Intern at the Shaw Festival under the mentorship of Paul Sportelli, where she served as both a conductor and pit musician for the 2024 season. Athena is also a faculty member and music director for institutions such as Sheridan College, Randolph College, and Bravo Academy. Some of her highlights include: The Lion King (Mirvish; key 1 sub), My Fair Lady (Shaw; conductor/key 1 & 2 sub); The Secret Garden (Shaw; piano conductor sub); Irving Berlin's White Christmas (Shaw; key 1 sub/rehearsal pianist); Soft Magical Tofu Boys (Musical Stage; MD); Legally Blonde (Bravo; MD). This is Athena's first Lawyer Show and she can't wait to show the audience what this fabulous group has been working on!



Brittany Banks – Choreographer

Brittany is a Toronto-based director, choreographer, and producer whose work has been featured at the Charlottetown Festival, National Arts Centre, Meridian Arts Centre, Sheridan College, Harbourfront Theatre and more. She is a graduate of UPEI's Bachelor of Music program, an alumnus of Randolph College, and studied directing under the mentorship of the Ostrenko Brothers in Austria. Brittany has performed on stages across the country for the past 15+ years. Favourite credits include Josie in Anne of Green Gables, Kronborg: the Hamlet Rock Musical, Jesus Christ Superstar (Charlottetown Festival), Amber in Hairspray (Theatre Aquarius), Cinderella in Cinderella (Torrent), Red Rock Diner (Drayton), Mamma Mia! (The Grand), UnCovered (Musical Stage) and Abegweit, Soul of the Island (Vancouver Olympics). She is a past recipient of Musical Stage's Banks Prize. A proud alum of Nightwood's Innovators, Brittany is excited to return to the Lawyer Show, where she previously worked on Urinetown as Director and Choreographer, and served as the Assistant Director for And the World Goes 'Round. She adores collaborating with this talented and fun group of lawyers, whose energy makes the rehearsal room an absolute joy to be in.



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Music & Lyrics By Suzy Wilde
Directed By Marie Farsi
Music Direction By Rachel O'Brien



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CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Amanda Wong 黄婷婷 – Set & Costume Designer

Amanda Wong is an award winning Toronto based set and costume designer for live performance and media. As an artist she is interested in the exploration of the overlap of heightened reality and the surreal lucid spaces - seemingly separate spheres that do intersect one another. Amanda has been honoured with the outstanding design award in Toronto's Summerworks Festival for two consecutive years collaborating with directors Severn Thompson and ted witzel and multiple nominations for the Pauline McGibbon Award. She has designed costumes for tv, web series and feature films. In 2020, Amanda designed a 100' long plexiglass ice sculpture in front of Union station. Amanda hopes you enjoy the hard work and fun the team has put into this show!

See her work next in Quiet in Land Blyth Festival Theatre (June 2025), Powers & Gloria (August 2025) Blyth Festival Theatre, Nightwood Theatre's Enormity Girl; and the earthquake in the Lungs (Sept. 2025) or in Tarragon Theatre's CHILD-ish (Oct 2025) or stream Cows Come Home on Fibe Tv.



Andrea Nelson – Lighting Designer

Andrea Nelson is a professional lighting designer and technician who has been working in the Toronto theatre scene since 2011. She is a Theatre Production and Design graduate from York University and has worked as an LD on independent productions such as; The Resurrectionists (Theatre Parallax Toronto), King of the Castle (House of Rebels), The Shape of Things (Theatre Bassaris), Solo: A Boy's Journey (Red Canoe Studio), Solferino (Rogue and Peasant Theatre). She worked as an assistant lighting designer with the Canadian Opera Company and is also a stagehand and member of IATSE Local 58. She is excited to be back working with Nightwood Theatre for her third lawyer show!

Pip Bradford – Production Manager

Pip Bradford is a producer, production manager, and stage manager who works with many companies in Toronto, including the Luminato Festival, Anandam DanceTheatre, The Toronto Comic Arts Festival, Just For Laughs, Nightwood Theatre, Red Sky Performance, Bad Hats Theatre, 7a*11d Performance Art Festival, SummerWorks, and Theatre Passe Muraille. She is the incoming Director of Facility and Production at 877 Yonge Street, a new theatre space operated by Tapestry Opera and Nightwood Theatre, and serves on the board of the Paprika Festival. Pip also has a installation art practice as one half of Art Is Hard Productions with Rebecca Vandavelde, building interactive experiential art that welcomes people into spaces of permission to have fun and create together.



CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



Ashley Elliott – Stage Manager

Ashley Elliott (she/her) is a versatile theatre professional with a background in arts administration, stage management, directing, writing, and performing. Originally from Windsor, ON - Ashley has worked in the theatres in Orlando, FL and Boston, MA before moving to Toronto to complete her BA in Theatre & Communication Studies. Her extensive background in stage management includes six Lawyer Show musicals, three Toronto Fringe Festivals, two Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, and a memorable stint at Canada's Wonderland for Cirque Canadien. Ashley has always held space in her heart for Nightwood Theatre and the Lawyer Show, a connection that dates back to 2017 when she started as an intern. Now part of the Nightwood team as the Administrator - Operations & Partnerships, she couldn't ask for a better team and cast of lawyers to work with year after year. During her downtime, she exclusively enjoys snuggling with her three cats (Ruby, Espresso & Millie), her adorable dog (October), and incredible partner, Christian.

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Nightwood Theatre's 16th
annual Lawyer Show

Break Legs!

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Nika Jalali – Rehearsal Stage Manager & Assistant Stage Manager

Nika is an Iranian-Canadian producer and multi-disciplinary artist dedicated to amplifying racialized voices on international stages. She has collaborated on interdisciplinary projects in Australia, Italy, Scotland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Canada. She was selected as the 2024 Metcalf Foundation Artistic Producing intern, under the mentorship of Nightwood Theatre, where she deepened her commitment to creating transformative, thought-provoking theatre that inspires change. Currently, Nika is working on the international tour of Why Not Theatre's Mahabharata as Assistant Producer and Company Manager, touring to Lincoln Center, NYC this June.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

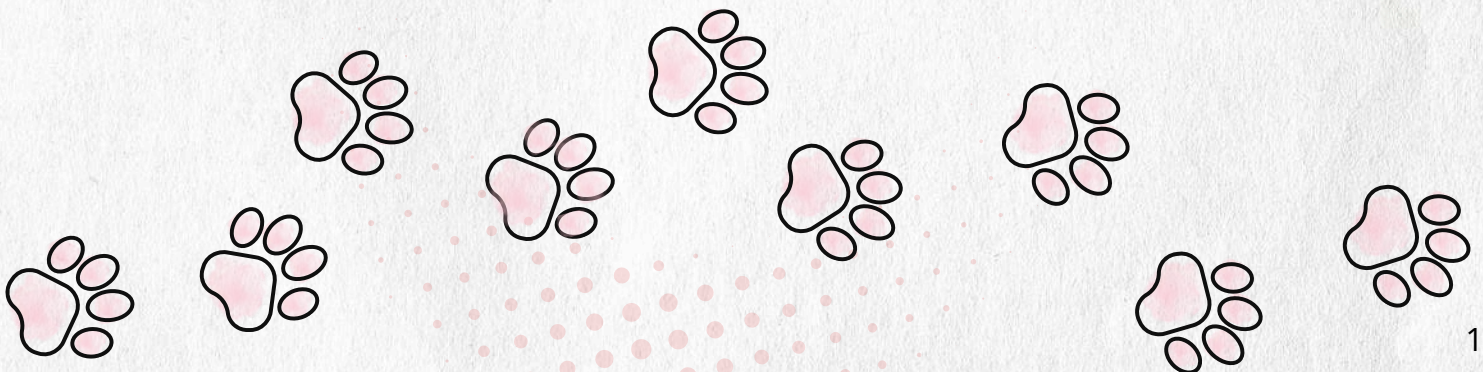


Lee Stone – Shadow Director and Fight & Puppet Consultant

Lee Stone (they/them) is a director, producer, and educator. They were born on Chumash and Tongva land in Southern California and educated on Kānaka Maoli land at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (2013). As a queer/polyamorous, trans/non-binary, white settler/immigrant of German, Jewish-Ukrainian, and Armenian descent, Lee uses theatre, storytelling, and education to resist the cishet, white colonial project. Lee is also the founder of Dead Name Theatre, which uplifts and centres the voices, experiences and talents of trans, non-binary, and queer creatives in Toronto (deadnametheatre.weebly.com). In alignment with the show's themes of individual action in the face of government policy, Lee will be donating a portion of their artistic fees from Nightwood Theatre to Anera who "provides humanitarian assistance and sustainable development to advance the well-being of refugees and other vulnerable communities in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan." May the sun come out tomorrow.

Alyssa Ruddock – Shadow Production Manager & Production Assistant

Alyssa Ruddock (she/her) is a GTA-based theatre professional with an Honours B.A Dramatic Arts from Brock University & minor in Critical Gender Studies. Training: Brock DART - Production & Design Concentration, Shaw Festival (Stage Management Intern), Arcola Theatre London UK (Marist College Enrichment Program). Recent Credits Include: Production Assistant/Lead Stagehand (The Grove Theatre, 2024) Red Bike (Brock University), The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Brock University). Upcoming: Hypothetical Baby (Nightwood Theatre), The Lawyer Show (Nightwood Theatre). Alyssa volunteers regularly for student/youth-led initiatives, fostering communication between students and faculty and creating voices for neurodivergent artists. She is fluent in English and French and has several years of experience as a Beauty Advisor, helping people of all ages and genders with sustainable beauty.





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CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Allison Cormie-Bowins – HOOVERVILLE-ITE/STAFF/CABINET ENSEMBLE/NYC DANCER

Allison is very excited to be joining the talented cast and crew of the Lawyer Show for the first time! Allison has a storied past as a theatre kid and a dancer, and is grateful to this amazing community to be given the opportunity to step on a stage once again. When not trying to remember choreography, Allison is a criminal defence lawyer, and has spent almost a decade singing in the car on the way to court.

Allison Pressé – MRS. GREER/SOPHIE

Allison is overjoyed to return to the Lawyer Show this year. She was first introduced to the musical theatre world by her mother, who took her to see Les Misérables on Broadway when she was 12 years old. This sparked a lifelong love of showtunes which she shares on a daily basis with her very patient husband, Paul. While not singing and dancing, she is a litigator with SBA Lawyers LLP, where she practices primarily in insurance defence. She is very thankful to Nightwood Theatre for providing lawyers with this wonderful creative outlet and to her firm, family and friends for being so supportive!



Ari Sterlin – TESSIE/Dance Captain

Oh my goodness, Oh my goodness! Ari is thrilled and honored to be participating in her third lawyer show this year. She is even more thrilled to be slowly working her way up to playing adult roles after her tour de force portrayal of Gretl Von Trapp last year!

Called to the Bar in 2021, Ari is currently working in talent management at AMI. The height of her career was working on Broadway's Paradise Square in 2022, but she has been lucky enough to have been working on and off the stage for over a decade and is the founder of the Cote Saint-Luc's Senior Summer Works program in Montreal. Lots of thanks to Nightwood and the wildly talented cast and creative team!

CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)

Arielle Di Iulio Elias – ORPHAN ENSEMBLE

Arielle is thrilled to return to the Lawyer Show, having previously performed in The Stars of Mars (2021) and Urinetown (2023). When she is not singing and dancing, Arielle practices estate, trusts, and capacity litigation at Mills & Mills LLP.

Arielle is truly grateful for the enthusiastic support of her firm, friends, and family. She would also like to thank the inimitable production team at Nightwood Theatre and her fellow cast members for their "hard-knock" work in putting together this year's show!



Bennet Jensen – BUNDLES/SANDY PUPPETEER

Bennett (he/him) is grateful and excited to be returning to the Lawyer Show after making his musical theatre debut last year as Kurt von Trapp in The Sound of Music. When he isn't rehearsing, Bennett spends his time defending the rights, dignity and humanity of 2SLGBTQI people as Director of Legal at Egale Canada. He dreams of a world where this work becomes unnecessary and we can all just sing and dance.

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The Lawyer Show 2025

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CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Brennan Caldwell – ORPHAN ENSEMBLE

Brennan is a Legal Knowledge Engineer at Litera, where she draws on her prior experience as a lawyer to help develop exciting new legal tech products. She is thrilled to be participating in her very first Lawyer Show and couldn't be prouder to support Nightwood Theatre!

Brennan is thankful for the support of her family, friends and colleagues leading up to the show. Special thanks to her partner for his patience on the many nights she chose to practice Hard Knock Life right before bed. Brennan dedicates this performance to her dad, who spent her whole childhood trying to instill in her a love of music. It took 30 years and a musical about an orphan, but she's finally come to appreciate all those music lessons she tried so hard to get out of.

Chandler Buchanan – HOOVERVILLE-ITE/CABINET MEMBER/ ASSISTANT DOG CATCHER/PRODUCER/NYC DANCER

Chandler is thrilled to be making her Lawyer Show debut! Chandler is a broadcasting regulatory lawyer, supporting clients across Canada's film and television sector. While Chandler is new to the stage, she is a former competitive synchronized skater for Team Canada which explains her need to seek out situations where group choreography is involved. Chandler is a passionate supporter of the arts and volunteers as a board member of Common Boots Theatre in Toronto. She has taken her role preparation as assistant dog catcher very seriously and apologies to the neighbourhood dogs who have been unknowingly subjected to her method acting.



Christine Doucet – CECILE/HOOVERVILLE-ITE/SFX MAN

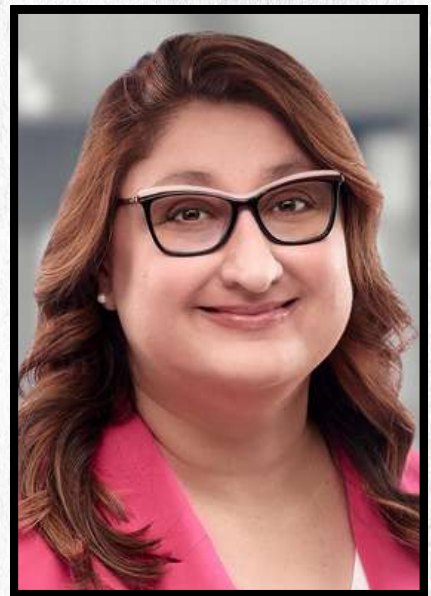
Christine is delighted to be back for her fourth Lawyer Show! In her day job, Christine is counsel with the Office of the Children's Lawyer (Ministry of the Attorney General). In her 24/7 job, she is a mom to two amazing and energetic kiddos. In her not-so-spare time, Christine enjoys cooking, reading, and catching up on the latest episodes of Dateline. Many thanks to the Lawyer Show family, especially the brilliant Nightwood team for putting on another incredible production! Enjoy the show!

CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)

Clare Mauro – PEPPER

Clare is excited to perform in her first Lawyer Show (better late than never!) and to return to musical theatre after a long hiatus, fulfilling a life-long dream of playing an orphan in Annie. She has previously appeared in Moulin Rouge, The Sound of Music, Oklahoma, and Damn Yankees! Clare is an accomplished vocalist, musician (piano, guitar, flute, and saxophone), and a stand-up comedy writer/performer. She has directed McGill Law's Skit Nite, written and performed her own solo cabaret show, and was lead singer and guitarist in an all-woman Toronto rock band. By day, Clare is the Director of Litigation and eDiscovery Services at Torys LLP where she manages digital evidence and document review workstreams. She is grateful to Nightwood's incredible team for the opportunity and to her family, friends and colleagues for their support.



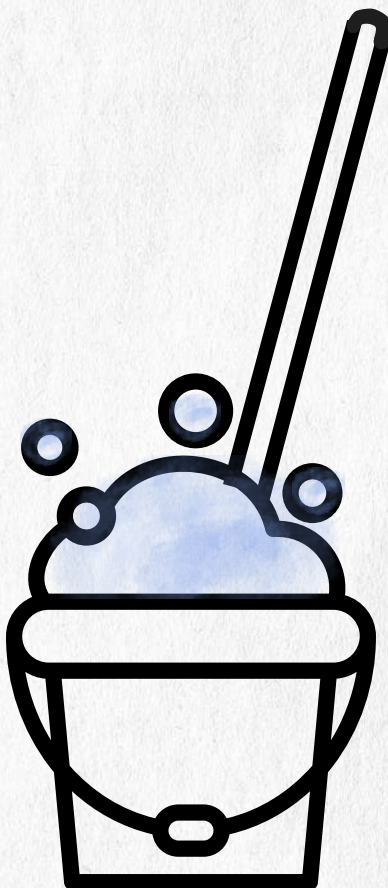
Courtney Evans – LILY ST. REGIS/Dance Captain

Courtney has been part of the Nightwood Lawyer Show annual tradition since her articling student days back in 2013.

Whether dancing like a Shakespearean deer, bending and snapping as Elle Woods or do-re-mi-ing as Maria in the Sound of Music, Courtney is incredibly grateful to be part of this wonderful community. Here's to Tomorrow!

David Mills – OLIVER WARBUCKS

David is the Managing Partner of Mills & Mills LLP and chair of the firm's Estates Group. David has appeared in The Lawyer Show since 2019 and is honoured to share this labour of love with the talented people of Nightwood and this year's amazing cast of lawyers.



CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Edina Cavalli – HOOVERVILLE-ITE/STAFF/CABINET ENSEMBLE/USHERETTE

Edina is a VP, Procurement - Chief Procurement Officer at CIBC. She is a keen traveller, runner and has lived and worked in Europe, the US and now Canada having held progressively senior roles across legal, compliance, regulatory, treasury and procurement roles. She is a member of the Nightwood Board and the chair of its Development Committee and sits on the Lawyer Show Committee. She joined The Lawyer Show cast in 2017 despite her reservations about singing in public or musicals in general and never looked back.

Elizabeth Moore – MRS. PUGH/JIMMY JOHNSON/ENSEMBLE/NYC DANCER

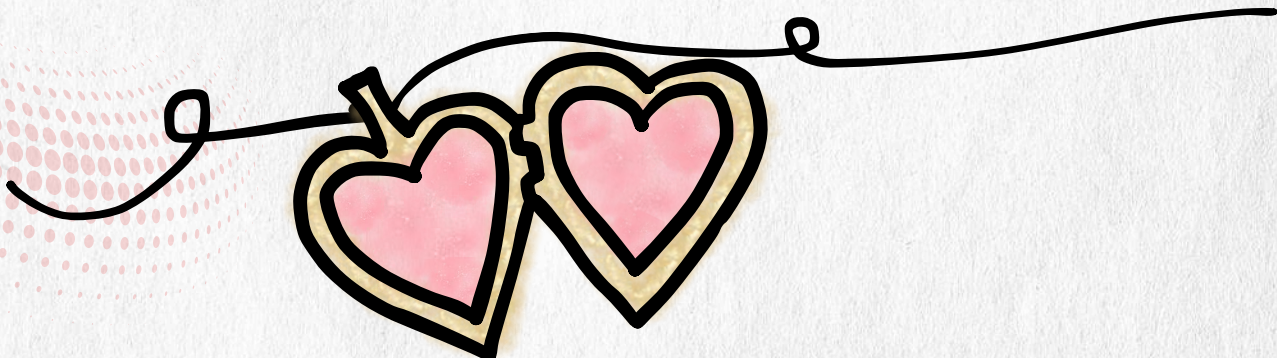
Elizabeth Moore is an assistant Crown attorney who has practiced in downtown Toronto's criminal courts for almost nine years. A theatre kid at heart, she's never had trouble speaking loudly enough in court.

This is Elizabeth's second Lawyer Show and she's enjoyed exchanging last year's Latin nun music for kick-lines and jazz hands. Big thanks Nightwood and the entire Lawyer Show family!



Emma Romano – ORPHAN ENSEMBLE

Emma is a Partner at WeirFoulds LLP practicing in the areas of media, defamation, and technology law. She assists journalists and media outlets in a diverse range of matters including defamation, challenging reporting restrictions, and access to information. She also advises customers and providers of technology products and services on contracting, compliance, and disputes. Emma has been a Lawyer Show cast member since 2018, playing such diverse roles as depressed monkey no. 5, taverna floor cleaner no. 3, and earnest girl with fish.



CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)

Greg Miller – DRAKE/DOG CATCHER/COP

Greg's had uncommon fun these past three months preparing for Annie, his first Lawyer Show (and first time being involved with thee-ay-ter). He can hardly wait to finally tread the boards in the role of Drake - a laconic, loyal, and literal-minded butler.

Much thanks to the Nightwood team for their willingness to impart their considerable talent and experience to a neophyte. And to the cast of lawyers for their generosity in doing the same!



Heather Paterson – FRED MCCRACKEN/WACKY/SEN. HOWE/ENSEMBLE

Heather has been a member of the cast of Nightwood's The Lawyer Show, on and off, since 2011. Heather is amazed that they keep letting her come back for more. It is a gift to be able to escape her day job as a lawyer at Shibley Righton LLP and play in the creative and safe space that The Lawyer Show provides and pretend she is an actor (if only for a little while).

A big thank you to the amazing team at Nightwood and the entire cast and crew of Annie for the laughter, music and friendship. Big hugs and thanks to the family, friends and colleagues who come out to support the show year after year. "Let there be songs to fill the air." 🕊

Heidi LeBlanc – KATE

Heidi is an associate lawyer at Carters Professional Corporation, where she enjoys a broad civil/commercial litigation practice with a focus on charity and not-for-profit related disputes. Outside of her life as a lawyer, Heidi is a dedicated dog parent, avid foodie, and musical theatre enthusiast.

This is Heidi's 9th Lawyer Show production, with previous credits including Legally Blonde The Musical, The Drowsy Chaperone, Mamma Mia!, Urinetown: The Musical, and The Sound of Music.

Heidi couldn't be more excited to join Nightwood Theatre again this year, returning to her roots as an adult-turned-child actor as little orphan Kate in this year's production of Annie. She wishes to thank her family and friends for all of their ongoing support and encouragement (and as always, for enduring the not-so-occasional show tune), as well as to Nightwood and the creative team for all of their patience and support!



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CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Jennifer Whincup – BOYLAN SISTER/STAR TO BE/HOOVERVILLE-ITE

Jennifer is Senior Legal Counsel at Altus Group, a leading provider of asset and fund intelligence for the commercial real estate industry—which is a fancy way of saying she reads a lot of contracts and says “it depends” professionally. She’s thrilled to be back for her sixth Lawyer Show (yes, that’s right, sixth!), continuing to support the incredible work of Nightwood Theatre while indulging her inner drama queen. Jennifer is endlessly grateful to Nightwood for the chance to share the stage with a wildly talented cast of legal eagles and an extraordinary production team. Big thanks to her colleagues for cheering her on as she trades redlines for rehearsals, and all the love to her family for their constant support—and for still showing up, even after six years of this.

Joe McGrade – BERT HEALY/HAROLD ICKES/STAFF/HOOVERVILLE-ITE

Joe is a competition lawyer at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP by day, a karaoke warrior by night, and is thrilled to make his lawyer show (and musical theater!) debut in this year's production of Annie. He would like to thank his vocal coach (and daughter) Rose, for musical theater bath times, wife Daniella for her patience in listening to the OBC recording on repeat for six months, and his big extended McGrade family and friends for filling the house. Remember folks, smile darn ya, smile.



Joseph Cuyegkeng – ROOSTER HANNIGAN/HOOVERVILLE-ITE

Following his Lawyer Show debut as Max in The Sound of Music, Joseph is beyond excited to be back playing Rooster Hannigan in Annie. Sadly, his moustache from the 2024 season has not returned, having been described as “a grave disappointment” (his parents), “100% vetoed” (his fiancée), and “giving midlife crisis” (Variety). A lifelong vocalist, Joseph’s prior credits include roles in Les Misérables, Evil Dead: The Musical, West Side Story, Urinetown, Grease, and The Drowsy Chaperone as well as choir performances for various dignitaries and clergy members (and Jackie Chan once!). Now a lawyer at Spin Master focused on children’s entertainment, Joseph is increasingly concerned about the optics of being typecast as a charlatan who manipulates kids for financial gain. He would like to give special thanks to his fiancée, Mercedes, and their dogs, Benji and Moogi, for planning the wedding in his absence... but when is it again?

CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)

Kaja Marinic – BOYLAN SISTER/HOOVERVILLE-ITE/NYC DANCER

Kaja, a former Vancouverite, is finally ready to admit that she accepts Toronto. Perhaps, one day in the future, she might deign to love it; alas, it's still too soon. As Annie always says: "Maybe." Kaja is a Program Manager with Pro Bono Students Canada and is inspired to work on access to justice issues. She is also honoured to portray Bonnie Boylan, a Hoovervilleite, an NYC dancer, and a member of President Roosevelt's cabinet in this charmingly senior rendition of Annie. She dedicates this performance to Sailor (cat) and Josh (husband).



Kate McNeece Cruess – MISS HANNIGAN

Kate is delighted to return to the Lawyer Show stage! Previous Lawyer Shows include Urinetown (Miss Pennywise/Mr. McQueen), The Stars of Mars (Kate), The Drowsy Chaperone (Kitty), and Legally Blonde (Margot). In her free time, Kate is a competition lawyer at Goodmans and was named to Global Competition Review's worldwide 40 Under 40 list for both competition/antitrust law and foreign investment law. She also chairs the CBA Competition Law Section's Podcast Committee and is a regular host of the Section's podcast, Counterfactual (available on all major platforms).

Lape Adeniran – DUFFY

Lape is delighted to make her musical theatre and Lawyer Show debut as Duffy in Annie. A lifelong music lover, she grew up singing in choirs, performed for dignitaries in London, ON during the 2010 Haiti earthquake relief efforts, and once shared the stage with a full symphony orchestra. At Osgoode, she also showcased her talents in the school's annual variety show. Lape is thankful to Nightwood for reigniting her passion for music, allowing her to reconnect with her inner 15 year old, and champion feminist theatre. By day, she works in securities compliance; by night, she's likely deep in fiction, wrestling over a 1000-piece puzzle, or humming tunes. Heartfelt thanks to A, her family, and friends for their unwavering support.



CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Lessa Nosko - APPLE-SELLER/CABINET MEMBER/NYC DANCER

Lessa is thrilled to be supporting Nightwood in her second Lawyer Show. When she isn't singing and dancing, Lessa works as a research lawyer and legal consultant. She also occasionally narrates audiobooks. Lessa would like to thank the incredible production team, tremendous band, and enormously talented cast for all of their hard work, and for the opportunity to stop doom-scrolling and focus on the joy and optimism of the performing arts. Big hugs to my incredibly loving, supportive, and patient family and friends, and extra smooches to D, E, and J.

Lucie Zhang - MOLLY

Lucie is Legal counsel at Lifetime Developments, a mixed-use, high-rise developer in Toronto. Outside of the office, is often found crocheting, yapping into a microphone as a host on the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers Ontario Podcast (available wherever you get your podcasts), hosting friends at her house, or playacting as a child usually below the age of 10. This is Lucie's second Lawyer Show, having played Marta von Trapp (she's turning 7 on Tuesday) in The Sound of Music. Lucie is so happy to be a part of the Lawyer Show family and would like to give a huge thanks to the entire cast and crew and her friends and family for all their unwavering love and support. No more mush!



Olivia Nieuwland - GRACE

This is Olivia's 3rd Lawyer Show, and she couldn't be more excited to be back on the stage singing and dancing in "Annie". Olivia is an entertainment lawyer at Goldenberg & Co P.C. She has most recently worked as production counsel on films including "Priscilla", "Winner", "I Used To Be Funny", and "The Apprentice". Olivia would like to thank the entire team at Nightwood for their dedication in producing the Lawyer Show and creating this wonderful community.



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CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)

Olivia Pomajba – ORPHAN ENSEMBLE

Olivia is discipline counsel at a professional regulatory body. She is thrilled to make her musical theatre debut in the Lawyer Show as a rotten smelly orphan, Scout! Olivia is eternally grateful for the support and enthusiasm from her loved ones in the audience. She thanks Kevin for his endless encouragement, on and off stage. Her performance is dedicated to her best friend (who is, ironically, named Annie).



Paloma Alaminos – ANNETTE/HOOVERVILLE-ITE

Paloma is very excited to be participating in her first ever Lawyer Show! Paloma's training in classical operatic voice grounds her creative, empathetic advocacy for workers as a union-side labour lawyer; she particularly enjoys practicing construction labour law and grappling with complex and novel legal issues. Paloma would like to thank the Nightwood team for their amazing work – and she hopes you enjoy the show!!!

Raha Khatib – HOOVERVILLE-ITE/STAFF

Raha, a recent Call to the Bar, is a music and theatre enthusiast who discovered the Lawyer Show this year. By day, she practices banking litigation and creditors' rights law at KRMCLLP. In her free time, she plays the piano, DJs, and is currently exploring music production.



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[Learn more about our firm's commitment to inclusion](#)

CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Richard Chan 陳駿華 – F.D. ROOSEVELT/LT. WARD

Hi everyone! Bonjour tout le monde! 大家好! Thank you very much for being here today to support Nightwood Theatre. This is my second Lawyer Show and it's an honour to be a part of "Annie" with this fantastic team. Working on this show has been incredibly rewarding & I hope you enjoy it! Outside of the rehearsal hall, I'm a broadcasting regulatory lawyer at CBC/Radio-Canada. I'm also on the board of directors of Common Boots Theatre and the Past Chair of the OBA's Entertainment, Media and Communications Law Section Executive. Much love and gratitude to Nightwood for this wonderful opportunity to rekindle my passion for theatre, as well as my family, friends and colleagues for being so supportive. Thank you! Merci beaucoup! 多謝!

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Rona Ghanbari – ANNIE

Rona is a music & theatre lover, and a lawyer at Stikeman Elliott LLP. Rona practises Artificial Intelligence and Technology law and is also the Director of Student Programs at the firm. She is thrilled to be a part of her seventh lawyer show and so grateful for the kind people who put up with her never shutting up, ever, including (but not limited to) her firm, the incredible team at Nightwood Theatre, the brilliant creative team and crew, this wonderful cast, her friend & family, and some strangers probably too.



Stephanie Kay – JULY

Steph is an articling student at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, and will be called to the bar later this month. She will be joining the Employment & Labour Group at Cassels as an associate in the fall.

Steph is thrilled to be part of her first Lawyer Show, and is honoured to be sharing the stage with this year's incredibly talented cast. Many thanks to the brilliant and hardworking team at Nightwood Theatre!

Steph also wishes to thank her partner, friends, family, castmates, and colleagues at Cassels for their endless support and encouragement throughout this experience.

CAST BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Tracy Bardell – JUDGE BRANDEIS/HOOVERVILLE-ITE/STAFF

Tracy is a seasoned health regulatory expert who works with the College of Nurses of Ontario. A lawyer with over 20 years of experience in health law, regulation, and policy, she brings professionalism and passion to every role—onstage and off. Her roots in musical theatre and opera stretch back to her youth, and she rekindled that spark through several years with newchoir, Toronto's first rock choir. Annie marks her debut performance with the Ensemble in the Lawyer's Show, and she is thrilled to blend her lifelong love of music and performance with this vibrant community. A heartfelt thanks to the incredible team at Nightwood Theatre and my fellow cast members for your creativity and guidance. Most importantly, I am deeply grateful to my wonderful wife, Nicki, and my amazing children, Kiernyn and Jayden, for your unwavering support in encouraging me to believe in myself: "I don't know why I'm frightened, I know my way around here." Enjoy.

Tracy Pratt – BOYLAN SISTER/HOOVERVILLE-ITE/CABINET ENSEMBLE/NYC DANCER

Tracy is delighted to be in the cast of her 7th Lawyer Show! Showing her versatility to play sister roles, Tracy has gone from the pious Sister Berthe to the wannabe 1930s Broadway star Sister Ronnie Boylan. Look for her also breaking down barriers as the first female American cabinet minister, struggling to survive as a Hooverville-ite and Rockette-ishly dancing through Times Square.

Tracy is a long-time litigator who finds great joy in stepping out of the courtroom and onto the stage! Many thanks to the professional team and fellow cast members for another wondrous, creative journey (with a special shout-out to her ever-gleeful Boylan sisters). Tracy is grateful for her family's and friends' attendance and their support of Nightwood Theatre's transformational work.





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BAND BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)



Alex Latoche - Reeds

Alex had the pleasure of performing on stage for Annie many years ago (2015) as an Apple Seller, Hooverite and Cabinet Member. A pleasure to be in the pit this time and to help create the music for this production. Many thanks to the band. Enjoy the show!

John McGowan - Bass Guitar

John has played bass in all of the Nightwood shows since they stopped doing Shakespeare. John is formerly an employment lawyer at Cassels, but now spends most of his time deleting cat videos that his mother sends him, bless her soul. He also plays keyboards, but prefers bass because there are only four strings so you've always got a 25% chance of getting it right.



Joshua Zung - Clarinet/Soprano & Alto Saxophone

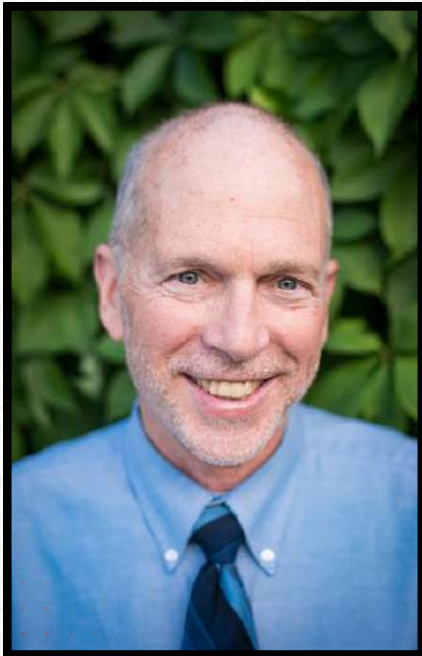
Joshua Zung is in demand as a woodwind performer across the GTA. His musical engagements include playing oboe and English horn with the Oakville Symphony, E_♭ clarinet with the Hart House Orchestra and suona with the Toronto Chinese Orchestra. Never afraid to tackle new instruments, Joshua is currently working on bassoon and will make his alto saxophone debut in this year's production of Annie. Joshua is delighted to return to the Lawyer Show band after having previously participated in The World Goes 'Round and Urinetown. In addition to his music commitments, Joshua practises tax law at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP.

BAND BIOS

(Alphabetical by first name)

Mark Masur – Drums

I am very excited to participate in the production of Annie and to be part of an amazing group of performers. I have played in bands for over 35 years, including multiple performances for AidBeat, but this is my first time doing musical theatre. I am also grateful for the support of the other musicians as well as my family.



Stewart Cruikshank – Trombone

Stewart is recently retired after a career first as a staff lawyer, then executive director at East Toronto Community Legal Services. His not so secret life outside of law has included spoiling grandchildren, and enjoying cycling, astronomy, and music. Musically, he studied trombone at Queen's University before completing his M.A. in music history at the University of Toronto. Professionally, Stewart started as an instrumental music teacher in Scarborough before turning to law. At Osgoode Hall Law School he discovered other like-minded students wanting to escape the books through music. Today you may see Stewart and these same lawyer friends playing community events in their Rhythm and Blues band: Tokyo Giants. His love of singing has meant he is a familiar face too in Toronto choirs, especially Cantabile Chamber Singers.

SPECIAL THANKS

Armand Baksh-Zarate
Birdie
Clark Burcheroy
Eveline Burcheroy
Heidi Chan
Kayley Duff
Ksenia Ivanova
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-The Honourable Justice Gloria Epstein, Lawyer Show cameo

"It never ceases to amaze me how you all take a group of non-professionals and achieve such great outcomes."

- The Honourable Justice John Sorensen, band member

"For a few months each year the women at Nightwood take a group of hard-working, analytic, often stressed-out lawyers who have careers that dictate they live most waking hours in their heads, and they teach us to live in our hearts. For a few months each year they encourage us not to future think, to drop the clever, and to live in the moment. This is not an easy feat; we can be stubborn, we are, after all, lawyers.

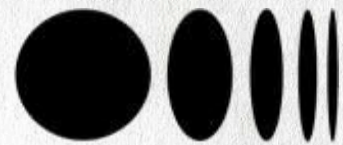
These few months in turn, I believe, make us better people, and even better lawyers. Nightwood provides for us a safe place to be brave, and to risk take. In these few months with Nightwood, we remember to be creative and connected and we get to experience a little bit of extraordinary in our ordinary. I have left the experience with a new passion for my life in general and inspired to make other positive choices. In short, for a few months each year, Nightwood gives us a little magic."

- Christine Marchetti, former cast member

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Nightwood Theatre



ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

As Canada's preeminent feminist theatre, Nightwood cultivates, creates, and produces extraordinary theatre by women and gender-expansive artists, liberating futures, one room at a time. Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created and produced award winning plays, which have won Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General's Awards.

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Naz Afsahi	Managing Director
Ashley Elliott	Administrator - Operations & Partnerships
Jade Silman	Artistic Associate & Head of Communications
Isa Chiu	Digital Communications Associate
Gaby Milner	Arts Administrator Intern
Pip Bradford	Director of Facilities & Production, Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre
Intisar Awisse	Program Director: Write From The Hip
Chris Mustard	Financial Advisor, Young & Associates
Faith McQueen	Website Maintenance

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877 COMMITTEE

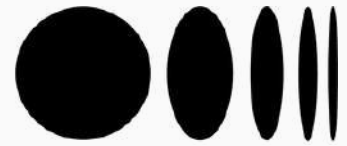
Edina Cavalli, John Dalrymple, Monica Esteves, Barbara Moses

Nightwood Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actor's Equity Association. It is a member of the Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts (TAPA) and Theatre Ontario.

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At Nancy & Ed Jackman
Performance Centre

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