

CAST



Felicia Curry (Susan) is thrilled to be rockin' out and "fallin' out" with two of the most talented men she has ever had the pleasure of working with. Other MetroStage productions: *Two Queens One Castle*, *Wife*; *Three Sistahs*, Irene; NYMF: *Petite Rouge*, Petite Rouge; National Tours: *Roald Dahl's WILLY WONKA*, Violet; *Barbie Live!*, Topaz (Original Cast Recording); Regional credits: *Aida*, Aida (2006 Helen Hayes Nom.); *Godspell*, Featured Performer (2005 Helen Hayes Nom.); *The Araboolies of Liberty Street*, A-Kid; *Tintypes*, Susannah, *BSO Holiday Spectacular 2006*, Featured Soloist; Education: University of Maryland. All my love to God, family, and friends. To Carolyn, Matt G., Derek and everyone else involved in this production, thank you for taking a chance and believing in me!



Matt Pearson (Michael) grew up in Washington and started his professional career here as an understudy in *Forever Ivor* at Arena Stage when he was 16. Since then, he's appeared regionally in *Swing!* (Everett) at Marriott Theater Lincolnshire, *The Little Mermaid* (Swing) at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Soldier/Alex) at the Ravinia Festival. Most recently, he was seen in a show he co-wrote for the New York Television Festival. Matt is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, where his favorite credits include *Topdog/Underdog* (Lincoln) and *Parade* (Newt Lee). Love to my teachers, friends and family.



Stephen Gregory Smith (Jon) is thrilled to make his MetroStage debut with this show. Recent regional appearances include: *Meet John Doe* (Ford's Theatre), *Into the Woods*, *Assassins*, *Pacific Overtures*, *One Red Flower*, *Allegro*, *110 in the Shade* (Signature Theatre), *Damn Yankees* (Arena Stage), *The Secret Garden* (Olney Theatre), *Regina* (Kennedy Center), *Street Scene* (Wolf Trap Opera). He was the recipient of the Helen Hayes Award for playing the role of Jimmy Curry in *110 in the Shade* at Signature Theatre in 2004. Thanks to Mom, Dad, Rusty, Buddha, all of the amazing cast, crew and design team who worked tirelessly to make tonight happen, and thanks most of all to Matt Conner, for whom tonight's performance is dedicated. www.stephengregory.blogspot.com

BAND

Jenny Cartney (Keyboard) MetroStage: *Rough Crossing*; Signature Theatre: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Saving Aimee*, *Into the Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *Assassins*, *Nevermore*, *Pacific Overtures*, *The Highest Yellow*, *Allegro*, *Follies*, *Christmas Carol Rag*; Ford's Theatre: *Shenandoah*; Arena Stage: *Señor Discretion Himself*; Kennedy Center: *Carnival*, *Mame*, *Little Women*, *Tell Me On A Sunday*, *Company*, *A Little Night Music*, *Aida*; Virginia Music Theatre: *A Year With Frog and Toad*; American Century Theatre: *The Robber Bridegroom*; Discovery Theatre: *Black Diamond*, *Going the Distance*; Cabarets: Euan Morton at Town Hall, Signature Theatre - Jacquelyn Piro, George Dvorsky, Last Garage Hurrah and many more. Love always to Jess.

Mike Kozemchak (Bass) has appeared in several area productions over the years and he is very pleased to be working with MetroStage for the first time. Recent appearances include: Keegan Theatre - *A Man for All Seasons* (Will Roper), *1776* (Joseph Hewes), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Visitor/Elvis), *The Playboy of the Western World* (Shawn Keough); Signature Theatre - *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Jacek/Bass). Mike wishes to thank Steve McWilliams and MetroStage for this opportunity, and sends his love to Jenn for all of her support.

Ian Thompson (Drums) has been an active member of the DC/VA music scene since before he even reached High School. He has never graced the DC theatre scene before and could not be more thrilled than to be playing the MetroStage for his first time. His last band, DC based A Day in Black and White (Level Plane Records) played hundreds of shows across the US and toured more countries in Europe than Ian has tattoos (which is a lot). His current music projects are: Arlington VA's Zulu Pearls and Northern Virginia's experimental/harsh noise outfit PIASA. www.myspace.com/dayinblackandwhite, www.myspace.com/zulupearls, www.myspace.com/pieuhsaw

Steven Walker (Guitar) began his musical career in Washington DC playing with various Gospel, R&B, and Go-go groups including Urban Nation Hip-hop Choir. He left the area to complete degrees in Jazz Studies and Mathematics at Ohio's Bowling Green State University where he studied with Christopher Buzzelli. While in Ohio, he played with numerous local jazz and pop groups. He also performed on guitar, bass and vocals in rock and country shows at Cedar Point Amusement Park. He is currently living in Virginia and working as a freelance guitarist and vocalist.

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Matthew Gardiner (Director/Choreographer) most recently co-directed/choreographed The Studio Theatre 2ndStage's production of *Reefer Madness*. Directing/Choreography credits include *Singing Shakespeare* (Signature Theatre); *Candide* (Catholic University); *Hello Again*, *Marry Me a Little*, *Edges* (Carnegie Mellon University); *The Last Five Years* (Variations Theatre). Choreography credits include *Dog Sees God* (Studio Theatre 2ndStage); *Myths & Hymns* (Carnegie Mellon University). Matthew is the Resident Assistant Director at Signature Theatre, where he has assisted Eric Schaeffer on several productions, from *Merrily We Roll Along* to *Allegro*. As Assistant Choreographer, Matthew worked alongside Karma Camp on Signature's *Urinetown* and *Merrily We Roll Along*, and Christopher D'Amboise on *Saving Aimee*. Local Assistant Directing credits include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Kennedy Center) and *The Last Five Years* (MetroStage). Matthew is a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a BFA in Directing. Upcoming projects include choreographing Signature Theatre's production of *Glory Days*.

Derek Bowley (Music Director) is thrilled to make his MetroStage debut as music director of this exciting production. Having just finished work on the Kennedy Center TYA touring production of Katie Couric's *The Brand New Kid*, he will return to the Center for the upcoming Family Theater production *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Derek's work will also be heard at Theater J in their 2007-2008 productions of *Shlemiel the First* and *David in Shadow and Light*. As a theater educator, Derek works with the Kennedy Center on their Musicals in the Schools Summer Theater Program and their Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers. He also directs the spring musical at Congressional Schools of Virginia in Falls Church.

Steve McWilliams (Band Supervisor) Past music credits include- Music Direction: *Oh, The Innocents* (Theater J), *Welcome to My Rash* (Theater J), *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Actors Theater of Washington), *Grapes of Wrath* (Assistant Music Director, Ford's Theatre), *Huck Finn* (Imagination Stage), *Holy Ghost* (Spooky Action Theatre), *Blues Journey* (Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Music Coordinator, Signature Theater), *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Assistant Music Director, Keegan Theater).

Adam Koch (Set Designer) MetroStage debut. REGIONAL: *Frozen*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *The Little Prince*, *The Sound of Music*, *Les Misérables*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Long Ago and Far Away*, *Upon a Star: The Music of Disney*, *It Had to be You*, *Many Moons*. CARNEGIE MELLON: *Side Show*, *Hello Again* (directed by Matthew Gardiner), *Trust* and *Woyzeck* (costumes). Recipient of the national W. Oren Parker Award for excellence in scene design and awarded the 2007 Kennedy Center Theater Design Fellowship. Upcoming projects include *A Tuna Christmas* (The Human Race Theater Co.), *Caligula* (Horizon Repertory Theater, NY) and *Dancebeat*, a new musical that will open in Osaka, Japan this Spring.

Mark Lanks (Lighting Designer) Recent designs include *Twelfth Night* and *Call of the Wild* for National Players at Olney Theatre Center, *Songs for a New World* at Strathmore Music Center, *Susan Shields' Ballet Cocktail* at George Mason University, *And a Nightingale Sang* at Everyman Theatre, *Carmen* at Tulsa Opera and *My Fair Lady* at Signature Theatre. He received a BA in Musical Theatre from Susquehanna University and an MFA in Lighting Design from Boston University.

Sasha Ludwig-Siegel (Costume Designer) is a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. Past work includes: *Somewhere in the Pacific* and *Lovesong of the Electric Bear* (Assistant Costume Designer- Olney Theatre Center); *Man is Man*, *Frozen* (Costume Designer- Carnegie Mellon); *The House of Blue Leaves* (Dramaturge- Carnegie Mellon). Future projects: *Glory Days* (Signature Theatre).

Matt Rowe (Sound Designer) MetroStage: *Rough Crossing*, *Rosemary and I*, *Closer than Ever*, *All Night Strut*, *Elektra*, *The Sand Storm*, *Mahalia*, *The Last Five Years*. Signature: *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Word Begins* (workshop), *SIS Eve of Destruction*. Theater J: *A Bad Friend*, *Bal Masque*, *Spring Forward Fall Back*; Assistant Sound Designer and Production Sound Engineer, *Betty Rules*. New York -Turtle Shell Productions: *Pucked*, *Eight Minute Madness*. Matt also tours as front of house sound engineer for the rock band BETTY (L Word).

Jessica Winfield (Stage Manager) is pleased to stage manage her second production at MetroStage. Other stage management credits include *Three Sistahs* (Metro Stage), *Raisin the musical*, *Ragtime* (Morgan State University). She is also a freelance lighting designer and theatre electrician. She currently works at Arena Stage as an electrician and just finished designing lights for Run of The Mill's production of *Blood Wedding*. Other design credits include *Man of La Mancha* (Spotlighters Theatre) *Miss Evers Boys*, *Black Nativity*, *Story Train* (Morgan State University), *Night of January 6*, *Dreamgirls*- Assistant Lighting Designer (ARTSCENTRIC). She would like to thank her mother and sister for being supportive, Danielle for always coming through for her, the cast and crew for being terrific and Shirley Basfield Dunlap and Cheryl Williams for being great teachers and mentors.

Brandon Guilliams (Technical Director) is happy to be doing another production here at MetroStage. You might have seen his work building sets at Washington Shakespeare Company, Journeyman Theatre, Actors Theatre of Washington, Imagination Stage, Theatre J, Kennedy Center, as well as MetroStage. He also designed MetroStage's Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington shows. He got his start at the West End Dinner Theatre where he did it all from kitchen manager to tech to actor. Brandon's roots are in cooking as he has an Associates degree in culinary arts from Johnson and Wales University. He also works at the Kennedy Center answering the information line. Enjoy!

Kevin Laughon (Production Manager) has worn many hats at MetroStage for almost three years. A graduate of Syracuse University, he is also an actor/singer/dancer and an accomplished choreographer/teacher who has worked at local theatres, schools and dance studios for 15 years. Kevin works on the technical teams at many DC area theatres and he recently performed in *Kiss Me Kate* (Paul/Hortensio) at Toby's. Films he worked on include *The Invasion*, *Evan Almighty* and *National Treasure 2*.

Carolyn Griffin (Producing Artistic Director) has been with MetroStage since its founding in 1984 and has produced over 60 mainstage productions, including 4 plays and 3 musicals that were world premieres. She is the co-founder of the Alexandria Arts Forum, which she chaired for 5 years, and has served on many regional panels for area arts commissions. Awards include the Actors' Center Award of Distinction, the Cultural Affairs Award from the Alexandria Commission for Women, the Award of Harmony from the Alexandria Harmonizers and the 2005 ALEX Award. She is on the Board of The Playwrights Forum and was chosen by the Canadian Embassy and the Helen Hayes Awards to travel to Canada in 2004 as part of the Canadian/Washington Theatre Partnership. She holds a Masters degree in Psychology from Catholic University and an MBA from Georgetown University. Her 4 children live in Washington DC, New York City, Savannah, Georgia, and Alexandria.