

The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk

BY DANIEL JAMIESON

DIRECTED BY BRIAN COWING



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FORWARD THEATER COMPANY
presents the Wisconsin premiere of
**THE FLYING LOVERS
OF VITEBSK**

by **Daniel Jamieson**
with music by **Ian Ross**

Directed & Choreographed by **Brian Cowing**

Scenic Designer
Chris Dunham

Lighting Designer
Greg Hofmann**

Costume Designer
Shelley Cornia

Composer & Sound Designer
Jim Uphoff

Props Master
Pamela Miles

Music Director
Sam Taylor

Stage Manager
Shawn Galligan*

The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk is generously sponsored by:

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This play was supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts, and The Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of *The Capital Times*.

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First produced by Kneehigh and Bristol Old Vic, premiering at Bristol Old Vic
2 June 2016

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Music © IAN ROSS 2016

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* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.



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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR...JEN UPHOFF GRAY

Welcome to Forward Theater's production of *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*, by Daniel Jarnison. For me this play conjures very specific memories of that first pandemic year, when we weren't leaving our homes, and all of us at Forward were trying to figure out how we could still be a theater company when we weren't making theater (at least not theater the way we'd always known it). During those isolated months, I saw the filmed version of *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* as staged by Britain's Kneehigh Theatre. And it encapsulated everything I was so missing about live theater: gorgeous and creative visuals, inventive staging, haunting music, and – above all else – human connection.

So to be bringing this story in three-dimensional glory to our beloved Forward audiences fills me with joy. I hope as you leave the Playhouse today, you'll feel that joy, too. Thank you for being here, and for the opportunity to share this deeply human story with you.

FROM THE DIRECTOR...BRIAN COWING

"I have always painted pictures where human love floods my colors." - Marc Chagall

Marc Chagall and his muse, Bella, waltzed through the canvas of life, hand in hand. Creating a symphony of colors and emotions that transcended the ordinary. In translating the Chagalls' artistic vision to today, we find inspiration in their ability to infuse the everyday with magic. In a world often overcome with digital distractions and disconnection, we embrace their whimsy to rediscover the enchantment in the ordinary.

Let our canvases be filled with the vibrant hues of human connection, the surreal strokes of resilience, and the dreamlike narratives of hope. Through our art, let us paint a world where love takes flight, dreams dance on the edge of reality, and the beauty of life is celebrated in every brushstroke.



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FROM THE ADVISORY COMPANY...DEPUTY JONO DE LEON

Did you catch *The Garbologists* and *Clyde's*? It's ok if you didn't, you're here now and *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* will be an amazing introduction to Forward Theater.

Flying Lovers takes us through the whirlwind marriage of Marc and Bella Chagall and their Russian Jewish world. This play is a departure from our normal offerings, and is told through movement, musical interludes, and song. Forward is excited to bring this work to the Playhouse stage and we feel that the sense of movement within our actors, music, lighting, and costumes will help tell this story in a new and exciting way for our audiences.

The Advisory Company is always looking for ways to push our boundaries and cultivate creative possibilities for Madison audiences and *Flying Lovers* fulfills both needs. We are excited to provide our audiences with a look into the life and hardships of the Chagalls and to expose our audiences to the painter's works and the writer's words. Take a moment to search Chagall's work and familiarize yourself with his style: work that is both geometric and organic at the same time, the way he paints his relationship to Bella, and uses rich pigments to color a reality with a much darker tone.

*Side note: If you caught our play reading of *Chagall in School* at the Chazen, you will already have a bit of an introduction to Marc and Bella.

Forward Theater Company is excited to present this piece and even more excited to hear what our audiences think of the work. Please make sure you join us for the pre-show lectures and post-show talkbacks and stay tuned for the announcement of our 2024-2025 Season.

A CLOSER LOOK...ADVISORY COMPANY MEMBER MIKE FISCHER

Love at First Flight

The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk doesn't just chronicle the legendary marriage of artists Mark and Bella Chagall. Drawing on music and dance as well as color and light, it also gorgeously transcends formal artistic boundaries to channel the love driving humans to create – while simultaneously looking back on the thriving Jewish culture in the Chagalls' beloved homeland of Vitebsk and tracing their journey to Paris and New York during the tumultuous first half of the 20th century.

In anticipation of Forward's Wisconsin premiere production, let's take flight as the Chagalls themselves so often do in Marc's paintings, traveling backward to their vanished world before it comes to life before your eyes.

18. When his beloved Bella died unexpectedly in 1944, the ordinarily prolific Marc Chagall turned his canvases to the wall; for nine months, he painted nothing. "Everything," he wrote, "has grown dark before my eyes." "He was expressive in his grief," writes Chagall biographer Jonathan Wilson, "and sobbed uncontrollably at Bella's funeral."

17. “Bella,” Marc would write in *My Life* – the autobiography Bella spent ten years translating from its original Yiddish – “has been haunting my paintings, [as] the grand central image of my art.” “Everything I have ever made,” he tells us in *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*, “is for her.”

16. Marc, in *My Life*, on first meeting Bella in their native Vitebsk in 1909: “Her silence is mine, her eyes mine. It is as if she knows everything about my childhood, my present, my future, as if she can see right through me.”

15. Bella, in her memoir *First Encounter*, on first meeting Marc: “When you did catch a glimpse of his eyes, they were as blue as if they’d fallen straight out of the sky. They were strange eyes ... long, almond-shaped ... and each seemed to sail along by itself, like a little boat.”

14. As these recollections suggest and as *The Flying Lovers* confirms, Bella was as integral as Fauvism and Orphism to injecting Marc’s life and work with the exuberant color for which he is justly renowned. “My whole life,” he tells us of Bella in *Flying Lovers*, “is pervaded with the color of loving you.”

13. In *Flying Lovers*, it is Bella – not Marc – who commemorates their first meeting in color, with “blues and golds and pinks” of flowers she then wrapped “in all my shawls of color.” “His eyes are now greenish-grey, the colors of the sky and water,” Bella remembered, in *First Encounter*. “I’m swimming in them, like in a river.”

12. It is also Bella – whom Wilson rightly observes was “better educated and a better writer than her husband” – who cultivated Marc’s remarkable ability to fuse poetry and paint. It’s no accident that novelist Henry Miller described Marc as a “poet with the wings of a painter.” Or that Surrealist extraordinaire André Breton once wrote that through Marc’s art, “metaphor made its triumphant entry into modern painting.”

11. Cue the music for what Wilson describes as “perhaps the most remarkable series of paintings as love poems that exists in twentieth century art.” From the rapturous paintings in the breakout year of 1915 – the year he and Bella married – through *To My Wife* (1933-44) and the pictorial requiems following her death – it is Bella who allows Marc to take flight, flying over Vitebsk alongside the soulmate who best embodied all it meant and why it mattered.

10. To its great credit, *Flying Lovers* acknowledges that while Marc’s paintings may have allowed Bella to enter immortality as his muse and model – “not a single painting was completed without her approval,” writes art historian Rita Lozinskaya – Bella sacrificed a great deal in marrying him, including a promising career as a scholar and untapped potential as an actor.

9. Bella’s ambiguous feelings are reflected in “A Wedding,” one of the pieces collected in her memoir *Burning Lights*. Her view of marriage, writes Wilson of “A Wedding,” suggests “a bittersweet event, light haunted by shadows,” in which a “bride frequently passes from one set of limitations to another.”

8. "We choose to see the same things, to like the same things," Bella tells us of her relationship with Marc. But while "we may choose to see the same things," she later adds, "he paints them and puts his name at the bottom of the canvas."
7. Yet even as Marc was translating poetry into paint, Bella was translating paint into poetry. "I've started writing, painting in Yiddish," she tells us in *Flying Lovers* of what would become *Burning Lights*.
6. As Sondheim famously said, content dictates form: In blurring the lines between the literary and the pictorial, Bella and Marc were anticipating the structure of *Flying Lovers* itself, which relies on movement, music, color, images, and light as much as words.
5. Playwright Daniel Jamieson has written that in collaborating on *Flying Lovers* with director Emma Rice, they sought to capture the fluidity in the Chagalls' aesthetic, in which "songs, dances and surprises bubble up irresistibly between words: a verse of a Russian love song here, a burst of frantic wedding dance there, a green cow, a morsel of Yiddish lullaby, a caress that becomes a brushstroke with which to paint another's body in the air"
4. Such fluidity is not whimsy, any more than Marc and Bella's nostalgia was escapist. Bella deliberately chose to write *Burning Lights* – in which she arranges her reminiscences of life in Vitebsk around various rituals in the Jewish calendar – in Yiddish as a response to the rising tide of anti-Semitism in 1930's Europe; ditto Marc's commemoration of Vitebsk in harrowing paintings like *The White Crucifixion* (1938).
3. As with Marc's invocation of a vanished Jewish world – "were I not a Jew," he once said, "I would not have become an artist" – *Burning Lights* turns its gaze toward the past to summon the possibility of a future, returning to one's roots to make something new while keeping hope alive.
2. When Marc began working again in the year following Bella's death, one of his first paintings was also among his best. In *Around Her* (1945), he invokes the Vitebsk which the Nazis had destroyed, alongside a quietly weeping Bella and a self-portrait in which his head – like his world – is turned upside down.
1. Perched in the upper righthand corner of *Around Her*, Marc paints another iteration of the flying lovers, dressed for their wedding. *Omnia vincit amor*: Even in a world gone mad, love is the inspiration and the answer, allowing us to dwell within the possibility that we might yet learn to fly free.
- Written in memory of Tillie Olsen. Milwaukee, December 30, 2023

ACCESSIBILITY AT FORWARD THEATER

Forward Theater's mission is to expand the cultural life for Madison-area audiences, which means inviting *all* of our community in to access and enjoy live, professional theater. Forward is proud to provide:

- [Assistive Listening Devices](#), which amplify sound through either a receiver and headphones, or a T-coil/Induction Loop (for those with compatible hearing aids or cochlear implants).
 - o Tip: Come early to sit and test your device, and keep your phone away from the device to avoid interference.
- [ASL-interpreted performances](#), offered on the third Saturday matinee of each production. Designated seating that offers an unobstructed view of the ASL interpreter is available as a ticket option.
- [Audio Description](#) - Exact dates TBD. Please contact us if interested.
- [Large print programs](#).
- [Courtesy wheelchairs](#).
- [Family Assist/Gender Neutral Restrooms](#).

You can access these devices and services at the coat check in the Playhouse lobby.

We are continuing to add services to enhance the experience of live theater for guests with disabilities, through realistic action steps and authentic relationship building. Would you like to utilize or learn more about these services? Have feedback or suggestions? Contact us: Audience Services 608-234-5001 x1 | Email: bcollins@forwardtheater.com

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledging Ho-Chunk Nation's ancestral lands, Forward Theater and Overture Center for the Arts celebrate the rich traditions, heritage, and culture that thrived long before our arrival. We respectfully recognize this Ho-Chunk land and affirm that we are better when we stand together.

We encourage you to visit ho-chunknation.com to learn more.

FTC'S 2023-2024 SEASON BUDGET

Thank you for purchasing a ticket to this production!

We are grateful to everyone who supports our work through ticket sales and other financial gifts. Key among our founding values is transparency. To that end, we share with you our annual budget, as an organization's budget is its clearest expression of its priorities. Producing professional theater is not inexpensive, but we consider carefully how we spend each dollar. And we are proud that such a significant amount of our spending is done locally, in support of local artists and local businesses. Thank you for your part in making it all possible!

People

Artistic personnel & benefits \$210,518
(93 actors, directors, designers)

Production personnel \$173,890
(62 crew and technical support)

Staff, benefits, payroll taxes \$543,659
(6 full-time, 1 part-time)

Accounting staff & consultants \$32,730

Community Connections \$10,680
(La Follette HS teaching artists; EDI & Anti-Racism efforts; other Outreach Programming)

Playwright Royalties \$64,862

Productions

Sets \$20,500

Costumes \$8,550

Lighting \$2,800

Props \$10,800

Sound \$270

Playbills \$9,600

Storage space \$4,200

Set building space \$8,944

Miscellaneous \$10,350
(scripts, auditions, transportation)

Venue

Theater rental \$69,656

Rehearsal space rental \$14,611

Venue equipment rental \$10,800

Security fees \$3,520

Box office fees \$114,399
(includes sales taxes)

Company Expenses

Artist housing \$4,350

Hospitality \$6,015

COVID-19 Safety expenses \$6,000

Operations

Office space rental \$45,500

Operational expenses \$19,828
(copier, internet, phone, database, supplies)

Insurance \$15,500

Payroll & Audit services \$19,700

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(incl. credit card processing fees)

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Total 2023-2024 Operating Budget: \$1,600,017



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THE FLYING LOVERS OF VITEBSK

by Daniel Jamieson
with music by Ian Ross

CAST

Bella.....	Emily Glick*
Marc.....	Marcus Truschinski*
Musician.....	Brian Grimm
Musician.....	Sam Taylor

Understudies:

Jonathan Backus, Jared Brandt Hoover, Sarah Streich, and Mark Wurzelbacher

*Performers appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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THE STORY OF BELLA & MARC CHAGALL

1887: Marc (Moise) Zakharovich Chagall was born.

1895: Bella Samoylovna Rosenfeld was born.

1907: Marc begins to study painting under Yehuda Pen in Vitebsk.

1909: Bella meets Marc and it was love at first sight. By this time, he is a penniless apprentice to Léon Bakst.

1910: Marc moves to Paris and discovers Cubism and Futurism.

1914: World War I begins. Marc's first personal show opens in Berlin.

1915: Bella and Marc marry in Vitebsk and move to St. Petersburg.

1916: Their only child, Ida, is born.

1918: Vitebsk comes under Soviet control. Marc becomes Commissioner of Fine Art in Vitebsk.

1920: Marc resigns from his position and they move to Moscow, where Marc designs and paints stage décor for the state Jewish Chamber Theatre.

1922: The couple flee the Marxist regime in the USSR, emigrating to Lithuania and on to Berlin.

1924: The couple move on to France and raise their daughter in the countryside.

1939: World War II begins. Vitebsk is immediately occupied by the Nazis and the Jewish population is eradicated.

1941: Unaware of the Nazi regime's influence in France, the couple are arrested in Marseille. They escape and flee to Lisbon where they continue on to the United States.

1944: Bella dies from a viral infection. Across the world, her beloved Vitebsk is destroyed.

1985: Marc dies in France.



Emily Glick (Bella) is a proud member of Forward Theater's Advisory Company and Literary Committee. Previous credits include *The Amateurs*, Forward

Theater; *She Loves Me*, *A Little Night Music*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Madison Opera; *A Shayna Maidel*, *Juno*, TimeLine Theatre Company; and productions with The Marriott Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, and Children's Theater of Madison. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre from The University of Michigan, and is the chair of the Theatre Department at Madison Country Day School. She is so grateful to Brian, Jen, and the tireless Forward Family. Love to Chef.



Brian Grimm (Musician) Brian is ecstatic for his stage debut here at Forward! Selected Production Credits: *The Garbologists*, *The*

Wanderers, Forward Theater Co.; *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *I Carry Your Heart With Me*, *Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play*, *Birds of North America*, Third Avenue PlayWorks; *The Magnolia Ballet*, About Face Theatre; *Shinsai: Japanese Tsunami*, American Blues Theater; *Two Mile Hollow*, Phoenix Theatre; *Mary's Wedding*, Indiana Repertory Theatre; *Dinner, This is Not Shakespeare's Macbeth*, *The Lives of Cut Flowers*, NoExit Performance, IndyFringe Theatre; *Current of Air*, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. Grimm earned his BM in Music Theory & Composition from Butler University (Indianapolis, IN) and studied Traditional Chinese Music at the Hong Kong Institute of Education (Hong Kong). Brian performs as a soloist and in the bands Lovely Socialite, Brennan Connors & Stray Passage,

The Five Points Jazz Collective, & Vardo. www.grimmusik.com



Sam Taylor (Music Director, Musician) is grateful to join such an incredible team for his first production with Forward Theater. Sam is a Madison-based

performer, music director, and teaching artist. Onstage theater credits include *Stellaluna*, *Matilda the Musical*, Children's Theater of Madison; *All is Calm*, *Spamalot*, Four Seasons Theatre. Music directing credits include *Peter Pan*, *Freaky Friday*, Children's Theater of Madison; *The Addams Family*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Madison Country Day School. Sam produces Four Seasons Theatre's *Listening with Leckrone*, a music history podcast with former UW Band Director Mike Leckrone. He also is a teaching artist for Overture Center's *Lullaby Project*, a songwriting outreach program. Sam received his Bachelor of Arts in Music and Psychology from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.



Marcus Truschinski (Marc) is an actor, director, and writer living in Spring Green, WI. He returns to Forward Theater for a fifth production, having

played Facebender in *Airness* last season. He's also appeared as Charles in *The Mytilenean Debate*, Matt and Mr Burns in *Mr Burns*, *A Post Electric Play* and Joseph in *Sons of the Prophet*. Marcus is a member of American Players Theatre's Core Acting Company where his credits include the titular role in *Macbeth*, Mr. Darcy in *Pride & Prejudice*, Biff in *Death of a Salesman*, Chris Keller in *All My Sons*, Henry Carr in *Travesties*, Algernon in *The Importance of*

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Being Earnest and Angelo in *Measure for Measure*. He's appeared regionally in the world premiere of *Ten Chimneys* at Arizona Theatre Co. and in the world premiere of *Old Glory* at Writers Theatre. Other regional credits: *Every Brilliant Thing*, Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*,

Father Flynn in *Doubt*, and *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. Film: *One Foot In, Witnesses* (nominated Best Actor, Midwest Independent Film Festival). Marcus plays Ronald Reagan in *Paper Girls* on Amazon Prime Video. Love to G and T.

PRODUCTION ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Dave Alcorn (Video Editor) is a digital marketing specialist and videographer with a focus on the performing arts. He has recorded over 500 concerts and performances and has created videos and promotional material for a wide range of music, theatre, and dance groups in Wisconsin. With a Bachelor's and Master's degree in percussion performance, Dave has a unique perspective for video creation. Dave is the Director of Digital Marketing at Overture Center for the Arts and the President of Microtone Media.

Shelley Cornia (Costume Designer) is delighted to work with Forward Theater on *Flying Lovers*. She holds a MFA from UW-Madison. Recent works include *A Christmas Carol* and *Freaky Friday* with Children's Theater of Madison and *Fences* at UW-Madison directed by Baron Kelly. Previous work includes *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and the world premiere of *Le Petite Duc* with Ohio Light Opera; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Tartuffe*, Eastman School of Music; *La Traviata*, LSU Opera; and *Iphigenia at Tarsus* University Opera-UW Madison. Shelley was awarded a Kennedy Center Design Fellowship for work on *Trojan Women*. Love to RBC.

Brian Cowing (Director/Choreographer) is honored to be working with this fantastic group of artists. Previous credits with Forward include choreographing *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* and *Russian Troll Farm*. His work has also been seen

at American Players Theatre, Capital City Theatre, Children's Theater of Madison, Clinton Showboat, Four Seasons Theatre, Madison Opera, Music Theatre of Madison, and UW-Madison. He has performed around the country and world with the National Tours of *Annie* and *Something Rotten!* He has extensive teaching artist experience including Kristin Chenoweth's Broadway Bootcamp, Tianjin Conservatory of Music, and Whoopensocker. He is a proud graduate of Oklahoma City University's musical theatre program and University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bolz Center for Arts Administration.

Chris Dunham (Scenic Designer) is the Associate Professor of Theatre Design and Technology and Technical Director for the Department of Theatre Arts at Edgewood College. He earned his BFA in Theatrical Design and Technology from UW-Stevens Point and his MFA in Scenic Design from Purdue University. In addition to his work at Edgewood and Forward Theater Company he has collaborated with Childrens Theater of Madison (CTM), Theatre Lila, and Four Seasons Theatre, among others. Forward Theater Company regulars will know his work from productions including *Outside Mullingar*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, and *Artemisia*. He would like to thank his wife Kat and daughter Emerson for their continued love and support.

Shawn Galligan (Stage Manager) With a background in performance, Shawn switched to stage management in 2011 (but he still finds a stray opportunity to perform). He has worked for theaters in Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin, both onstage and backstage, and he is thrilled to be doing a show with Forward Theater again. During the summers, Shawn is a company member and the Production Stage Manager for Northern Sky Theater in Door County. He is also a recreational cyclist, bike mechanic and a lover of board games and miniatures gaming.

Abbi Hess (Assistant Stage Manager) is grateful to be back for a fourth season with Forward Theater Company! Past favorite credits include: *Bare and The Amish Project* (Outskirts Theatre Co.); *Mamma Mia* (Lake Country Playhouse); *Next to Normal* and *Hamlet: A Cover* (Carroll University); *2 Pianos 4 Hands* and *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Milwaukee Rep); *Every Brilliant Thing* and *Imbroglia* (Great River Shakespeare Festival); *Airness* and *Artemisia* (Forward Theater). Thank you to friends, family, and the companies/SM teams that allow her to live this magical, theatrical life!

Greg Hofmann (Lighting Designer) Previous Forward Designs include *Airness*, *The Mytilenean Debate*, *Lewiston/Clarkston*, *The Niceties*, *To Peter Pan On Her 70th Birthday*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Mr Burns*, *Silent Sky*, and *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*. Selected other work: *A Christmas Carol*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Alliance Theatre*; *Nell Gwynn*, *Mary Stuart*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Road Show*, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; *Permanent Collection*, Madison Repertory Theatre; *Groundhog Day*, *Kinky Boots*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Elf*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Mamma Mia*, *Hairspray*, *Oklahoma*, *Tommy* (Jeff Award Recipient), *Mary Poppins*, *Annie*, and *42nd Street*, Paramount Theatre; *Rock of Ages*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Les Miserables*,

and *Oliver!*, Drury Lane Theatre; *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Welcome to Bronzville*, *Anatole*, *First Stage*; *A Christmas Carol*, *Matilda*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Anne of Green Gables*, Children's Theater of Madison. Greg has also designed over 80 productions for Cedar Fair Amusement Parks across the country. Please visit www.hofmannlightingdesign.com for more information.

Daniel Jamieson (Playwright) has worked for Exeter-based Theatre Alibi as an actor, joint artistic director (1995-2000) and writer. His writing credits for the company include *Falling*, *Hammer and Tongs*, *Goucher's War*, *Cobbo*, *Caught*, *One in a Million*, *The Freeze*, *Shelf Life*, *Little White Lies*, *The Swell*, *Sea of Faces* and *Birthday*, as well as adapting novels by Charles Dickens, Graham Greene, Michael Morpurgo and Dick King-Smith for the stage. Other theatre credits include *A Box of Photographs*, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* (Polka Theatre), *Where's the Bear*, *Wish Wash*, *Knitwits* and *Flathampton* (Royal & Derngate).

Pamela Miles (Props Master) is delighted to return to Forward for her eleventh season. She is so proud to be a part of this generous and courageous company. Pamela lives in Spring Green, WI where she has worked in the paint shop at American Players Theatre for fifteen seasons. Some other regional theaters she has painted for include: Arizona Broadway Theatre, Children's Theater of Madison, Madison Ballet (*Dracula: A Rock Ballet*) and Madison Opera (*She Loves Me*, *Tahiti/Sins*). She completed her first outdoor mural in Spring Green during the summer of 2021 on the side of the Slowpoke Lounge & Cabaret. Pamela has previously performed the role of Props Master for the Black Theatre Troupe in Phoenix, AZ and for American Players Theatre's 2016 production of *Mary's Wedding*. She would

like to extend a hearty THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support the arts throughout this pandemic!

Jim Uphoff (Sound Designer) is a Madison native who returned to his hometown after working on Broadway for 7 years. Since then he has been working at ETC in Middleton while continuing to work with local theater groups. James is thrilled to be working with Forward Theater Company again! Love to KO, Maddie and Alex.

Kevin Zimmer (Technical Director) is a Master Craftsperson/Scenic Engineer who has worked with Forward since 2009 season and a Core Tech Member at APT

since 2010 as Scene Shop Supervisor. Madison Credits: Madison Repertory Theater and Children's Theater of Madison (Master Carpenter and Deck Chief), Madison Opera (M. Carp/ATD), Madison Ballet (Carp), Four Seasons (TD), FTC (M. Carp). My dark years was Arizona Broadway Theater (TD and Shop Supervisor). Other Credits: St. Louis City Museum (Welder/Sculptor); St. Louis Shakespeare Company (Scenic Charge Artist); St. Louis Black Repertory, and The MUNY. Was a Former Member of IASTE B-2 and has been overhire for Local 251 and 6. Some fun Backstage Roles: Snoring Drunk: *Or; Thief: Diary of Anne Frank*; Bus Boy: *Fully Committed*. Work Hard and Play Hard. Thanks to all for supporting the Arts. 70.

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I've always appreciated Forward Theater productions' ability to find the intersection of life, art, and love that creates an essential intertwined dialogue. And while we seek out theater to escape, I appreciate the discussions that confront us because of the perspective we're provided with onstage that may reflect what's happening in the world around us. Even when the real world's problems seem too difficult to comprehend.

Your Forward Theater has always been about the relationship between love and art, much like in the beautiful, reimagined story you'll soon see. We thrive because of how strongly you believe in the sincere connectedness between the art on stage and the love we receive in return from you. As you wind your way through winter, be sure to keep this relationship with us strong.

We have one more production this April that we know you, your family, and your friends will appreciate. And with spring right around the corner, we can't wait to share our slate of shows for next season. There's never been a better time to strengthen the bonds between art and love than today. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

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We are pleased to recognize contributions to the annual fund received between December 1, 2022 – December 19, 2023. If you notice any errors in acknowledgement or have questions about donation options, please contact Sarah Milestone at 608-234-5001 or smilestone@forwardtheater.com. To make a tax-deductible donation to Forward Theater online or learn about donor benefits, visit our website at forwardtheater.com. To mail in a contribution, please use the following address: Forward Theater, P.O. Box 14574, Madison, WI 53708.

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Elizabeth Von Iderstein
Sara Ward-Cassady
Chuck Mitchell &
Sally Weidemann
Peter Weiler
Liz Whitesel
Eve Wilkie & James Clum
Anonymous (3)

THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS OF FORWARD THEATER VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers help Forward Theater by staffing events, helping with mailings and other office support. If you would like more information, please visit our website at Forwardtheater.com or contact Company Manager Celia Klehr at 608-234-5001.

2023-2024 Volunteers:

Tammy Albrecht
Rima Apple
Kelsey Baubie
Michele Brucker
Audra Chaimson
Pamela Crapp
Sarah Day
Carla Di Iorio
Michael Di Iorio
Dennis Dorn
Kim Falkenstien

Dolores Gohdes
Paul Gohdes
Lanie Goldsmith
Kathleen Harker
Steve Kilkus
Kathryn Lederhause
Molly Maslin
Mary Metz
Sue Milch
Tess Mulrooney
Margaret S. Murphy
Kathie Nichols

Deb Nies
Hannah Nies
Michelle Pribyl
Barb Sandford
Frank Schneeberger
Lynda Sharpe
Daryl Sherman
Dot Steele
Cheri Teal
Beth Whittemore
Christina Wood

Housing provided by:

The Madison Concourse Hotel
Linda Baldwin O'Hern and Vince O'Hern
Julie Swenson
Sam White

SPECIAL THANKS

Joan Herzing
Jennifer Fischer
David McDonald
Nathan Mergen
Francie Smith Saposnik
Sunny Yudkoff

Forward Theater's Opening Night Party is generously provided by 107 State.



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