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Actor, board member and friend of the theatre Barry Goldman dedicated over thirty years of his life to making the Spartanburg Little Theatre a better place for its audiences and participants. We are proud to honor his inspiring legacy of talent, kindness, support, and dedication to the Spartanburg Little Theatre organization through a unique giving society—the **Barry D. Goldman Legacy Circle**.

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Jamie Wooten

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Dr. Tim Baxter-Ferguson

Costume Designer
Ashleigh Shuler

Lighting Designer
Peter Lamson

Sound Designer
Chandler Crawford

Stage Manager
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WAR

CAST



Bence Bays



Candace Boroos



Doug Egge



Donna Everett-Ferguson



Jon Garner



Lori Guthrie



Kellie Eubanks Pifer



Mark Stidham



Rosalind (Roz) Walters



Nancy Wilkins

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

Cee Cee Windham	KELLIE EUBANKS PIFER
Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen	CANDACE BOROOS
Uncle Aubrey Verdeen	DOUG EGGE
LaMerle Verdeen Minshew	DONNA EVERETT-FERGUSON
Peaches Verdeen Melrose	LORI GUTHRIE
Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen	NANCY WILKINS
Bitsy Hargis	ROSALIND (ROZ) WALTERS
Newt Blaylock.....	JON GARNER
Sheriff Grover Lout.....	MARK STIDHAM
Elsa Dowdall	BENCE BAYS
Mama Doll Hargis	KELLIE EUBANKS PIFER
Purvis Verdeen.....	MARK STIDHAM

PRODUCTION **TEAM**

Director	MADDIE TISDEL
Stage Manager.....	SAMANTHA RAE LEE
Scenic Designer	DR. TIM BAXTER-FERGUSON
Costume Designer.....	ASHLEIGH SHULER
Properties.....	JAY COFFMAN, DOUG EGGE
Sound Designer	CHANDLER CRAWFORD
Fight Director	LIAM MACDOUGALL
Lighting Designer	PETER LAMSON
Scenic Painter	KATHERINE RAUSCH
Scenic Construction.....	OLIVER ELLIS, EMILY ROSE WATTS, PETER LAMSON
Wig Designer	VICTOR DELEON
Audio Engineer	CHIP HICKS
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Poster Design	PETER B. KAY
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MEET THE **CAST** and **CREATIVES**

BENCE BAYS (Elsa Dowdall) is excited to make her SLT debut and join such a talented cast! She has been involved in many productions in her hometown of Florence, SC, and Brevard, NC, where she went to undergrad. Her favorites include *High School Musical*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Vanities*. Bence would like to thank everyone involved with the show for taking a chance on her and welcoming her into the SLT family. When she's not performing, Bence is a Study Abroad Advisor at Wofford College and spends her free time with her three rescue pups - Willa, Minnie, and Porcini. She is grateful for those who pushed her to audition and have supported her throughout this amazing experience!

CANDACE BOROOS (Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen), a Native Texan, is very excited to return to the SLT stage in this production of *The Red Velvet Cake War*. Candace was most recently seen in SLT's *To Kill a Mockingbird* as Stephanie Crawford, alongside Donna Everett-Ferguson and "trod the boards" next to Lori Guthrie, in SLT's *Steel Magnolias* as M'Lynn. She thanks her husband Jason, and kids, Kallin and Anson, for their love & support. She loves Jesus, Dr. Pepper and the sound of laughter. Thank YOU for supporting local community theater.

DOUG EGGE (Uncle Aubrey) is thrilled to bring this hilarious story to SLT! He most recently performed as Wes in *Footloose*, Walter Cunningham in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Mal in SLT's hilarious *The Addams Family* and he can be seen every year in Ballet Spartanburg's *The Nutcracker*. He was also on stage and helped produce the filmed version of Proud Mary Theatre Company's *The Laramie Project* and was in *Southern Baptist Sissies* (Preacher). Other recent roles include Terence and Bernard Warde in *Red Velvet* at Spartanburg Methodist College, Captain Slank (and company) in *Peter and the Starcatcher* at SLT and Ram's Dad (and others) in *Heathers* at Converse College. Also, he was the Artistic Designer for the recent Spartanburg HS productions of *Frozen*, *the Musical*, as well as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Crucible*. Doug wants to thank his understanding wife Shana for allowing him to "live in a play" a few times each year.

DONNA EVERETT-FERGUSON (LaMerle Verdeen Minshew) is thrilled to be back on the SLT stage. Previous favorite performance credits include Mrs. Dubois in Spartanburg Little Theatre's powerhouse *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Berthe (*Boeing, Boeing*) Clairee (*Steel Magnolias*), Germaine (*Picasso at the Lapin Agile*), Sonia (*Vanya, and Sonia, and Masha, and Spike*), Deirdre (*The Humans*), Hope (*Almost, Maine*), Chris (*Rumors*), Sugar Lee (*Hallelujah Girls*) and multiple characters in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Tryon Little Theater. In addition to appearing in shows with SLT, she has also directed/performed with Tryon Little Theater and in venues in Richmond, VA; Warsaw, Poland; Leysin, Switzerland; and London, UK. Sending love to D for his unfailing support and deepest gratitude to Maddie, Sami, the wonderfully talented and hilarious castmates, and the fabulous production team for a most delightful experience.

JON GARNER (Newt Blaylock) is so excited to finally be back on stage as the eccentric, wig-wielding, bachelor, Newt Blaylock. His past roles with the Spartanburg Little Theatre include Joey in *Sister Act*, Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia!*, Mike in the Spartanburg Youth Theatre's production of *Freaky Friday*, Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family: A New Musical*, and most recently, Daddy Cane in *Bright Star*. Jon is so grateful for the encouragement and friendship of our

SLT community. He loves that his mother continues to attend her baby boy's stage shenanigans. Jon is married to Joy, who is caring, compassionate and encouraging of his time with SLT, and they have 3 children together, Caroline, Sarah, and poor William, who was cursed at birth with his father's humor and could likely do this play with one eye closed. Jon is a native of Spartanburg and proudly works alongside his wife and family at Garner's Natural Foods.

LORI GUTHRIE (Peaches Verdeen Belrose) has had a blast laughing nightly during the rehearsal process for this show -- it's great medicine. Recent SLT highlights include *Bright Star* (Mama Murphy); *Sister Act* (Mother Superior); *The Savannah Sipping Society* (Jinx); *And Then There Were None* (Emily Brent); *Calendar Girls* (Celia); *Steel Magnolias* (Truvy); *Legally Blonde* (Paulette); *Ring Of Fire*; *Beauty And The Beast* (Mrs. Potts); *Memphis* (Mama); *The Music Man* (Mrs. Paroo).

KELLIE EUBANKS PIFER (Cee Cee Windham/Mama Doll Hargis) is happy to be back on the stage in this fun show. She was last seen on the SLT stage in *Savannah Sipping Society* in 2021 as Randa and in *Terms of Endearment* in 2020. Kellie teaches middle school at Spartanburg Day School. Before coming back home to Spartanburg, she taught, directed student productions, and acted in Fargo, ND for several years. Some of her favorite roles have been Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot*, Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Donna in *Mamma Mia*. A huge thank you to the cast for bringing joy and heart to each rehearsal!

MARK STIDHAM (Sheriff Grover Lout/Purvis Verdeen) is thrilled to be back on stage after a 6 year absence. He was last seen as Rod in *Calendar Girls*. Mark is thrilled to be back with the Spartanburg Little Theatre family. His performance is dedicated to his wife, Vicki.

ROSALIND (ROZ) WALTERS (Bitsy Hargis) loves laughter and welcomes you to laugh out loud at this hilarious cast of characters that we can all relate to in some way. She was last seen here at SLT as one of the singing nuns in *Sister Act* and before that as Ruth in *Calendar Girls*, her first "acting" role not in a musical. She's excited to bring Bitsy to life today which her husband, Cliff, says won't be a stretch for her sassy Southern ways. You be the judge! As always, she thanks Maddie, her director, for taking a chance on her, Cliff for so graciously allowing her the freedom to "play" for two months without him, and her children and grandchildren for supporting Nonnie's antics!

NANCY WILKINS (Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen) inauspicious start on the SLT stage began back in 1991 with one line in *No Sex Please- We're British*. And she just kept coming back! Since then she's had roles in *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Chapter Two*, *Cheatin'*, *Miracle on 34th St*, *Don't Dress for Dinner* and most recently *Savannah Sipping Society*. Other area credits include *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Talking With* and *The Moving of Luwana Harp* at the Gaffney Little Theatre, and USC Spartanburg where her role in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* earned her a Golden Shoe award for Best Female Newcomer (1998-1999). She also played Anne Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker* at the S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind for the reopening of Walker Hall. She's done industrials and had a bit part in the film *El Camino* featuring future star Elizabeth Moss. She said landing that had more to do with holding her breath under water than talent! She has one daughter, Ramsey Wyles.

MADDIE TISDEL (Director) is thrilled to be back at SLT directing *The Red Velvet Cake War!* She graduated from Converse University in 2018 with a BA in history and musical theatre and has been working in the theatre arts professionally ever since. She has been seen onstage at The Warehouse Theatre, South Carolina Children's Theatre, Centre Stage, and with Spartanburg's Scraggy Shakespeare. Her directing credits include SLT's *Footloose*, SYT's *Charlotte's Web*, and Proud Mary's *Head Over Heels*. This is her first season as Education Coordinator of the Spartanburg Youth Theatre, and she has been using that time to expand the accessibility of the theatre arts to Spartanburg County schools with SYT On Tour's production of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, which runs this spring. Maddie would like to thank her family, friends, Austin, and Al for supporting her and her dreams since day one. She would also like to give a special shout out to Liam MacDougall for his fight choreography, the wonderful stage manager, Sami Rae Lee, for being her rock throughout this show, and to this wonderful cast, crew, and creative team who have showed up with joyful spirits every single day. What more could a director ask for?

SAMANTHA RAE LEE (Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of SLT's *The Red Velvet Cake War*. She has a BS in Theatre: Acting and Directing from Baldwin Wallace University. You may have seen her onstage or behind the scenes around the Upstate, examples including SLT's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To the Forum* (Tintinnabula), Proud Mary's *Head Over Heels* (Ensemble/Dance Captain), and Solstice Theatre's *A Mad, Mad Madrigal* (Lisa/Marilyn). She would like to thank the cast and crew for all the sweet memories.

DR. TIM BAXTER-FERGUSON (Scenic Designer) teaches theatre at Landrum High School after twenty years of teaching and designing at Limestone University. He previously did scenic design for *Wait Until Dark*, *Holmes and Watson*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Sh-Boom!*, *Terms of Endearment*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Rock of Ages*, *Spamalot*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He directed and designed *Avenue Q* and *Xanadu*. For Spartanburg Youth Theatre he has designed *A Christmas Carol*, *Matilda Jr.*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Grace for President*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. He has also designed for CAST Theatre, Queen City Theatre, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Theatre Charlotte, Central Piedmont Community College's Summer Season, and Spartanburg Repertory Theatre among others.

PETER LAMSON (Lighting Designer/Technical Director) has worked with SLT/ SYT since 2010. Prior to his arrival in Spartanburg, Peter worked with several theatre companies in Wilmington, NC, including City Stage, Tapestry Theatre Company, and at historic Thalian Hall. Peter relishes working with talented directors, actors, and other designers in order to solve the different challenges each production presents in order to be successful.

CHANDLER CRAWFORD (Sound Designer) is a graduate of USC Upstate where he studied theatre arts and creative writing. He most recently appeared as Jay Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby* and as Hot Dog Vendor/City Worker/Bus Engine at SCCT's *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus The Musical!* You may have seen him in summers past in Scraggy Shakespeare's productions of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Macbeth* in Spartanburg. He also recently appeared in Converse's production of *The Dragon* directed by Melissa Owens and *Measure for Measure* as Lucio at USC Upstate directed by Fred Van Patten.

Chandler also frequently dishes out the laughs with Spartanburg's own Sparkle City Improv troupe. Chandler has designed sound/video for past shows at SLT including *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *We Will Rock You*, *Miss Nelson is Missing* (SYT), *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Stuart Little* (SYT), *Of Mice and Men*, *Ghost Variations*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He is currently the Marketing and Audience Experience Manager at Spartanburg Philharmonic.

KATHERINE RAUSCH (Scenic Painter) is a visual/theatre artist. She has a BFA in design and has studied theatre and studio arts at Converse and USC Upstate. She teaches art at the Chapman Cultural Center and operates Pet POPS. She is originally from Detroit MI and has lived in Germany for 10 years. Katherine has been a full-time artist since 2016 here in the Upstate. Her latest theatre works include props and scenic painter for *Sister Act*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *And Then There Were None*, *The Color Purple*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Terms of Endearment* (SLT), stage manager for *Boys In The Band*, (Proud Mary Theatre), scenic painter for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *RENT*, *Footlose*, *Bright Star*, *Calendar Girls* (SLT), and props master for *Into the Woods* (Centre Stage).

OLIVER ELLIS (Scene Shop Foreman) has worked for the Little and Youth Theatre since 2021. He has worked with local companies such as Ballet Spartanburg and GLOW and graduated from Converse College in 2020. Oliver is glad to be given the opportunity to grow in theatre here and looks forward to creating art this season.

EMILY ROSE WATTS (Scene Shop Assistant) is excited to be joining SLT/SYT for another season. Starting as an intern at SLT in 2021, she is glad to be given the opportunity to grow with this season's productions. Emily Rose graduated from Converse University with a BA in theatre. Previously she has worked with GLOW Lyric Theatre, Ballet Spartanburg, and the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

JAY E. COFFMAN (Executive Artistic Director) most recently directed this season's *The Sound of Music* and last season's *Bright Star* and *RENT*. Other favorite directorial credits include *Sister Act*, *We Will Rock You*, *Sh-Boom!*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. In past seasons, he has occasionally appeared on stage in *Legally Blonde* (Dad/Winthrop), *Blithe Spirit* (Charles Condomine) and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some!)*. A native of Southern California and former senior instructor of German at USC Upstate, Jay is in his 16th year as SLT's executive artistic director.

ADAM SANDERS (Youth Theatre Director) grew up with SYT and loves directing the program that helped shape him! He has been the SYT Director since 2015, and previously taught and directed at the SC Children's Theatre in Greenville, SC. Adam has directed many productions including *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Newsies*, *Godspell Jr.*, *Disney's Freaky Friday*, *Elf the Musical Jr.*, *Disney's Aladdin Jr.*, *Mamma Mia!* (at SLT), *Seussical Jr.*, and many more. He'd like to thank his beautiful wife, Kelsey, for loving him and being his biggest fan.

JENNY BONNER (Media Coordinator) is a visual artist, as well as an instructor in studio art and art history at USC Upstate. She holds an MFA in painting & sculpture from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a BFA in painting and drawing from The Ohio State University. Jenny enjoys making props and other adornments for the shows at SLT when the opportunities arise and is so excited to see what this season holds! Outside of work, she enjoys running trails, and spending time with her pup, Dame Maggie Smith.



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