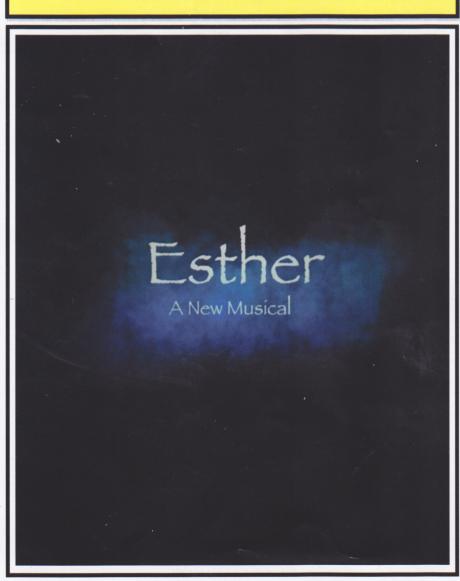
SOUNDBEACON ENTERTAINMENT

ZACH THEATRE, KLEBERG STAGE

February 10, 2018



Creative Team

Director	Matthew Shead
Music Director	Glenna Bowman
Music Director / Piano	Thomas Azar
Drums	Nathan Langfitt
Stage Manager	Lauren Collins
Audio Engineer	Rodd Simonsen, ZACH Theatre
Audio Engineer	Kelly Baldwin, ZACH Theatre
Event Manager	Kaitlyn Kennedy, ZACH Theatre
House Manager	Kathy Garrett, ZACH Theatre
Videography	Elizabeth Reeder Neubauer, Studio E
Social Media Director	Joel Pettit
Accounting/Budget	Diane Juul
Executive Producer	Glenna Bowman
Producer	Rochelle Lacy
Producer	Machelle Pharr



Special thanks to the following people and organizations

ZACH Theatre

Keri-Dawn Solner, Megan Barrett

Manchaca United Methodist Church

Mark Hixon, Rehearsal Pianist Russell Ehrlich, Rehearsal Sound Technician Gary Carpentar, Rehearsal Sound Technician

SOUNDBEACON ENTERTAINMENT

Glenna Bowman Rochelle R. Lacy Machelle Pharr

present

ESTHER

A New Musical

Music and Lyrics by Glenna Bowman and Thomas Azar

Book by Glenna Bowman and Matthew Shead

STARRING

Ryan Smith Matthew Redden

Steve Williams Creighton Moench Emily Villareal

Jeremiah (A.J.) Abdullah, Jessica Brynn Cohen, Michele' Crowder, Laura Freeman, Kirk Kelso, Bennett Neiman, Elizabeth Neiman, Phil Rodrigucz, Susan Johnston Taylor

> Directed by Matthew Shead

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

LIVING THE DREAM Suri, Hadassah
COME ON OUT TO THE PARTY Harbona, Company
EVERY TIME SHE WALKS BY (VASHTI) Xerxes, Nobles, Haman
MAKE SURE THE WINE IS POURED Hadassah, Mordecai, Tamir
PUPPET IN MY HAND Haman, Zeresh, Amira, Company
ESTHER Mordecai, Esther
BEAUTY CARE Hegai, Juily, Company
A GILDED CAGE Hegai, Juily, Suri, Esther
IN THIS MOMENT Xerxes, Esther
EVERY TIME SHE WALKS BY (ESTHER) Xerxes, Hegai, Harbona
WEDDING SONGEsther, Xerxes, Company

ACT TWO

WEDDING SONG / GILDED CAGE, REPRISE	Esther
HISTORY	Haman, Zeresh, Company
ADONAI, TESHU'ATI	Mordecai, Company
HE LOVES ME, HE LOVES ME NOT	Esther, Dalia
A MILLION MILES AWAY	Esther, Dalia
THE MOMENT IS NOW	Esther, Mordecai
FASTING	Esther, Suri, Juily, Dalia
DINNER WITH THE KING Esther, Xerxes, Haman, Company	
HAVE A PARADE Haman, Xerxes, Zeresh, Harbona, Company	
FINALE	Esther, Company

The CAST

RYAN SMITH (HADASSAH/ESTHER) is honored to be a part of Esther! Regional Theatre: Mary Poppins, Les Miserables, RENT, Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella at ZACH, City of Angels (The Colony Theatre, Los Angeles), Peter Pan with Cathy Rigby, The Sounds of Music and Oliver! (Theatre Under the Stars, Houston). Alongside her piano man father, Ryan also performs in concert The Art of the American Song throughout the Fayette & Austin areas. She is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (NYC).

MATTHEW REDDEN (XERXES) is well-known in Austin for his leading roles at ZACH's Topfer Theatre. Some favorite roles include Bert (Mary Poppins), Peron (Evita), and Robert (The Drowsy Chaperone). His resonant, vocal style and charming personality have us swooning, along with all the characters in the story of Esther.

STEVE WILLIAMS (MORDECAI) brings his considerable theatre experience to this role, having performed in numerous shows at ZACH Theatre, Georgetown Palace Theater, the Vortex and Austin Jewish Repertory Theater. Former roles include Joseph (Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat), Sky Masterson (Guys and Dolls), Harry Houdini (Ragtime), Barnaby (Hello, Dolly), and El Gallo (The Fantasticks).

CREIGHTON MOENCH (HAMAN) has been seen in performance spaces around Austin, including Zilker Hillside Theatre, The City Theatre and Jewish Repertory Theatre. Most recently, he appeared as Daddy Warbucks in Annie at Georgetown Palace Theatre. Other roles include Prince Eric (The Little Mermaid), Anthony Hope (Sweeney Todd), and Lumiere (Beauty and the Beast).

EMILY VILLARREAL (SURI) moved to South Austin from the Big Apple. With a degree in Musical Theatre from Manhattanville College, she created her own recurring, musical theatre showcase *Cabernet Cabaret* (@CabCabATX). Upcoming performances include *The Red Scare* with Texas Comedies and *Goodnight Moon* with The Zach Theatre. Favorite roles include Marcy Parks (Spelling Bee), Flotsam (The Little Mermaid), and Gingy (Shrek the Musical). She'd like to thank her friends, family, and her super attractive boyfriend Zach.

JEREMIAH "AJ" ABDULLAH (HATHAK, ENSEMBLE) is a first year Acting major at the University of Texas at Austin. He has had the pleasure of portraying roles such as Puck (A Midsummer Night's Dream) and Ren McCormack (Footloose: The Musical). He has had a wonderful time making new friends through Esther and hopes to work with them again in the future.

JESSICA BRYNN COHEN (DALIA) has been seen in local productions around Austin, most recently as Tessie (Annie) at the Georgetown Palace Theatre, Other roles include Jojo (Seussical), Gretl (The Sound of Music), and Flounder (The Little Mermaid). She has also been seen around town singing at Cabarets, Curtain Calls, Talent Shows, and an occasional National Anthem. When she's not performing, she spends her time playing piano and ukulele, and fitting in some golf when time allows.

The CAST

MICHELE' CROWDER (ENSEMBLE) studied music at Texas Lutheran University and has appeared in theatre productions in Austin, Killeen and San Antonio. Past roles include Arista-Mersister (The Little Mermaid), Aida (Aida the Musical), and Alice (Big River the Musical).

LAURA FREEMAN (ZERESH) is a songwriter and two-time Best of Fest honoree at Austin's Fronterafest. She has written two musicals, both of which were produced at Austin Scottish Rite Theater. She has three CDs of music for children and a new recording that is due out in May 2018. She also performs as her alter-ego Luna Tart and has recorded two CDs under that name.

KIRK KELSO (HEGAI) is all aflutter being in his first staged reading for SoundBeacon Entertainment. You may have seen, but not recognized Kirk as the Cowardly Lion in Zilker's The Wizard of Oz. Other roles include: Billy Flynn (Chicago) (City Theatre), Dr. Frank N. Furter (The Rocky Horror Show) (Austin Theatre Project), and Arles Struvie/Didi Snavely/Vera Carp (A Tuna Christmas) (Georgetown Playhouse) for which he won BroadwayWorld Austin's Best Actor in a Play (comedy) (2017).

BENNETT NEIMAN (TAMIR, ENSEMBLE) has a lifetime of musical theater experience as an actor, director, writer, and producer in both professional and community theatre settings. He is honored to be performing with such an immensely talented cast, in such a brilliantly-crafted original production as Esther. Kudos to my fellow performers and my amazing directors.

ELIZABETH NEIMAN (AMIRA) sparkles with energy both on and off the stage and, always has an encouraging word for everyone she meets. Her performance education includes Circle in the Square Conservatory (New York, City, NY) and Ryder University (Lawrenceville, NJ). Memorable roles include the Baker's Wife (Into the Woods), Cindy Lou (The Marvelous Wonderettes), Ti Moune (Once on the Island), and Yenta (Fiddler on the Roof).

PHIL RODRIGUEZ (HARBONA) is excited to be part of this project! Most recently he played Pharoah in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Georgetown Palace). Other Palace roles include Gaston (Beauty and the Beast), Frank Butler (Annie Get Your Gun), and Rum Tum Tugger (Cats). He has also been in various Texas Comedy Musicals such as Alamo Aftermath and Boomtown as part of the Crank Collective group. Special thanks to Travis, Mikey and Ava for always putting up with my many characters.

SUSAN JOHNSTON TAYLOR (JUILY), a recent transplant to Austin, has studied voice including opera and musical theatre for over a decade and most recently appeared as Diane in Austin Theatre Project's Bare. Favorite credits include Brigadoon (Fiona), Into the Woods (Rapunzel - twice!), The Secret Garden (Rose), Ragtime and Les Misérables.

Thank you

to all those who made this production possible!

Individual Contributors

PRODUCER (\$500+) Rochelle R Lacy Machelle Pharr

GOLD (\$250+) Rick Bowman Joelyn Weeks SILVER (\$100+) Cheryl D Burnett Diane Juul

SAPPHIRE (\$50+)
Dale & Linda Lininger

GOLD (\$25+) Sharon Whitfield



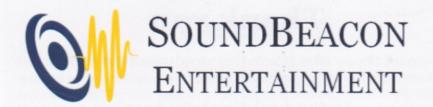
This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.











OUR MISSION

To entertain audiences through live performance, with a focus on musical theatre; to share stories that challenge, support, and inspire our daily lives and artistic pursuits.



Glenna Bowman Executive Producer



Matthew Shead Director/Writer



Thomas Azar Pianist/Composer

Board of Directors

Sharon Whitfield

Maria Elena Ramon

Matthew Shead

Glenna Bowman

Social Media Director—Joel Pettit

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Production Assistant—Lauren Collins