

lift your **spirits**
tickle your **funnybone**
ignite your **imagination**
engage your **heart**
in **our town.**



ZACH
T H E A T R E

2009 - 2010 Season

DAVE STEAKLEY, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& **ELISBETH CHALLENGER**, MANAGING DIRECTOR
PRESENT

OUR TOWN

By **THORNTON WILDER**

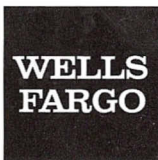
Directed by **DAVE STEAKLEY**

Set Design..... ZACH ARTISTIC STAFF
Lighting Design..... JASON AMATO
Costume Design..... SUSAN BRANCH TOWNE
Musical Director ALLEN ROBERTSON
Sound Design CRAIG BROCK
Properties Master CHRIS COGSWELL
Stage Manager..... LISA GOERING*
Assistant Stage Manager JESSIE DOUGLAS
Dramaturg..... SHELLY MANIS

*Member Actors' Equity Association

April 15 - May 23, 2010 • ZACH Theatre's Kleberg Stage

TITLE SPONSORS:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ZACH Theatre is a member of **ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**, the union of professional actors and stage manager in the United States; and a Constituent Member of **THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG)**, the prestigious association of professional theatres nationwide.

CAST

(In order of appearance)

JASTON WILLIAMS*	Stage Manager
HARVEY GUION	Dr. Gibbs
MICHAEL BRYCE	Joe Crowell, Jr.
GABRIEL LUNA	Howie Newsome
JANELLE BUCHANAN*	Mrs. Gibbs
BARBARA CHISHOLM*	Mrs. Webb
MICHAEL AMENDOLA	George Gibbs
CRYSTAL ODOM, EVAN UNDERBRINK	Rebecca Gibbs
CHRISTIAN GUERRA	Wally Webb
JORDAN McRAE	Emily Webb
SCOTTY ROBERTS	Professor Willard, Constable Warren
MARCO PERELLA*	Mr. Webb
BILLY HARDEN	Simon Stimson, Organist
LAURA BENEDICT	Soloist, Wedding Singer
LANA DIETERICH	Mrs. Soames
DONELVAN THIGPEN	Si Crowell
MICHAEL MENDOZA	Sam Craig
DON OWEN	Joe Stoddard, Ensemble
BLAKE REEVES, BEN VAN WINKLE	Baseball Players
LAURA CHEEK, EMILY EVERIDGE, BETHANY HARBAUGH, EVA McQUADE	Ensemble

* Member Actors' Equity Association

CHOIR - Members from Austin's Wesley United Methodist Church will join us at each performance. Wesley is a historic East Austin church serving the community since 1865.

**After Act I, there will be a 7-minute intermission.
The audience moves to ZACH's Nowlin Studio in Act II.
After Act II, there will be a 10-minute intermission.**

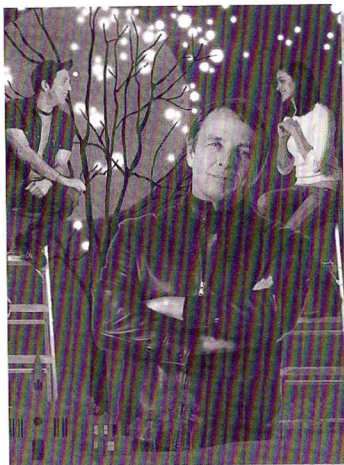
ZACH's \$20 Wednesday Night Series
for this production is sponsored by ...



Any taping, filming, recording, or broadcast of this play (musical or otherwise) and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, or by camera phone, is strictly prohibited.

Drinks are welcome in the theatre, but no snacking please. Remember to turn off your cell phone and/or pager prior to the show.

From the Director



Pictured: Jaston Williams (front);
Michael Amendola; Jordan McRae.
Photos by Kirk R. Tuck

I grew up in a small Texas town — Grandview, population 935 — a place very much like Grover's Corners. Our town was so small that once I mailed a card with an incorrect address and it was returned to my house, even though I had not included a return address. The post office simply recognized my handwriting. No surprise then that *Our Town* was the only play we ever read in Grandview — no Greek drama or Shakespeare or Arthur Miller, only Thornton Wilder's extraordinary classic.

When I first came to work at ZACH nearly 20 years ago, director Jim Fritzier and an all-star line-up of Austin actors and musicians created a beautiful production of *Our Town* that is one of my most cherished theatre-going experiences. Last year when I was directing *The Grapes of Wrath* I found myself frequently referencing the characters in *Our Town* in rehearsal with my cast, and this fanned my desire to return to Wilder's world anew this season. I love this play. It is a touchstone we should all revisit at different stages in our lives as new truths unfurl.

All of the actors in ZACH's production are from Austin, some notables have graced our local stages for over 30 years, while others are making their professional debut. It's important to me that this company of actors come from our community, and that you may run into them at the grocery store or on the Hike and Bike Trail or at a live music venue and have the opportunity to have a conversation about our town. Many of these actors have previously performed in this play in a different role, and still this play moves us and reminds us and transforms us.

For our production I have chosen to perform it in contemporary dress and set it in what feels like Austin today to underscore the timelessness of this story, even though we have not altered Wilder's language. Emily and George's nuptials are one of the most significant events to happen in this play; because weddings are hyped as the most important day in a young woman's life, I have chosen to create a site-specific wedding that we will move to during ACT II in ZACH's new Bill & Bettye Nowlin Rehearsal Studio. This also opens the opportunity to create a different visual identity for each act of this remarkable play, united by a heavenly galaxy of stars. A star's mighty good company.

— Dave Steakley, Director

About the Company



JASTON WILLIAMS* (*Stage Manager*) — is returning to the stage at ZACH after appearances here in *The Laramie Project* and as Truman Capote in Jay Presson Allen's *Tru*. He has just finished a tour of *Tuna Does Vegas*, the fourth of the *Tuna* plays, which he and Joe Sears have performed for the past 29 years on Broadway and off Broadway at D.C.'s Kennedy Center and Ford Theatre and many other acclaimed venues — and the occasional dump. Austin audiences have also seen him in *The Foreigner*, *The Chairs*, *Funny Thing Happened ...* and his solo monologue shows *I'm Not Lying* and *Cowboy Noises*. He will re-open *Cowboy Noises* at The Long Center in the Fall of 2010. He will also perform a staged reading of his new work *A Life Without Trees* as a benefit for the Baker Theatre in Lockhart, Texas, this coming June. Mr. Williams is the recipient of the L.A. Dramalogue Award, The San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Award and has five nominations for Washington D.C.'s Helen Hayes Award.



HARVEY GUION (*Dr. Gibbs*) — AT ZACH: *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Omnium-Gatherum*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Measure For Measure*, *Macbeth*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Hamlet*, Austin Shakespeare; *Iphigenia Crash Land Falls*, etc., *Salvage Vanguard*; *El Paraiso*, *Rude Mechs*; *Proof*, *The State Theatre*; *King Lear*; Public Domain. FILM/TV: *Holy Hell*, *Silent Fall*, *Unsolved Mysteries*, *America's Most Wanted*, *Snoops* and *WiseGuy*. OTHER: Harvey, a 30+ year member of AEA, AFTRA, and SAG; holds a masters degree in Theatre from Syracuse University, has taught and/or been a guest artist at a number of colleges, has done additional study at BADA, Oxford University, Eng.; Shakespeare and Company, Lenox, Mass.; and The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC.



MICHAEL BRYCE (*Joe Crowell, Jr.*) — joins ZACH Theatre for his first professional production. As a youth, he participated in plays at the ZACH Performing Art School, including *Othello*, *The Moor of Venice*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson*. He has his second degree black belt in Kung Fu, and has been playing piano for 6 years.



GABRIEL LUNA (*Howie Newsome*) — makes his ZACH main-stage debut in *Our Town*. Recent credits include Hamlet/Polonius in *Ophelia*, Sergei in the *Black Snow* and *Orestes in Orestes*. He currently stars as Nate in the feature film *Dance with the One*, which premiered in the SXSW 2010 Narrative Feature Competition. He can be seen in the near future as Lover in Paper Chairs Theatre's production of *Machinal* and as Eros in *The Psyche Project*.



JANELLE BUCHANAN* (*Mrs. Gibbs*) — AT ZACH: *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Doubt*, *Omnium-Gatherum*, *The Laramie Project*, *Abundance*, and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *An Ideal Husband* with Austin Shakespeare Festival, *Ah! Wilderness* at St. Edward's University, *Laughing Wild*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Death and the Maiden*,

* Member Actors' Equity Association

About the Company

Marie and Bruce, *Sonny's Last Shot*, and the world premiere of Tennessee Williams' newly discovered *Spring Storm*, to name only a few. She was a founder of Big State Productions and co-writer and performer in the company's long-running hit, *In the West*, which played almost every venue in Austin, many across Texas, and at the Kennedy Center. Janelle is a veteran Austin actress with dozens of stage productions to her credit, as well as numerous film, commercial, industrial, and print projects. AWARDS: The recipient of many B. Iden Payne & Austin Critics' Table nominations & awards for comedy and drama.



BARBARA CHISHOLM* (Mrs. Webb) – AT ZACH: *Shooting Star; The Clean House; Present Laughter; 365 Plays/365 Days; Keepin' It Weird; Blown Sideways Through Life; House Arrest; The Pavilion; Misery; Abundance; The Last Night of Ballyhoo; Ruthless! The Musical; The Sisters Rosensweig; Our Town*; among others. REGIONAL THEATRE: *When Something Wonderful Ends*, Red Then Productions; *Nesteggs For Armageddon*, Kennedy Center, D.C.; *The Winter's Tale* and *Hamlet*, Austin Shakespeare Festival; *Twelfth Night*, Sneck Up! Productions; *Nantasket*, UT; *The Women*, San Diego Repertory Theatre; *David's Redhaired Death and Silence*, *Cunning*, and *Exile*, Frontera at Hyde Park Theatre; *Come Back To The Five and Dime Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean*, Live Oak Theatre; *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet*, Capitol City Playhouse. FILM: *Holy Hell; Brotherly Love; The Aviatix; Fast Food Nation; Boyhood; Broke Sky*. TELEVISION: *Friday Night Lights*. OTHER: Multiple ACOT and Austin Critics' Table Awards for both comedy and drama. Producing Director of Red Then Productions.



MICHAEL AMENDOLA (George Gibbs) – joins ZACH for the first time. AUSTIN THEATRE: Austin Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, *The Tragedy of Achilles in Vietnam*, Shakespeare's *Husbands and Wives*, *Spooky Shakespeare*, *Intermission*, *Autobahn*, *The Bohemia Project* and *Mute Point*. UNIVERSITY THEATRE: *Macbeth*, *House of Blue Leaves*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Rover*, *Rocky Horror Show* and *The Art of Dining* at Texas State University. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A from Texas State University Department of Theatre and Dance, Studied with RSC at Stratford-upon-Avon.



CRYSTAL ODOM (Rebecca Gibbs) – AT ZACH: *The Grapes of Wrath*. ZACH's PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL: *The Best O' the Bard*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Commedia dell'arté*, *Anne Frank and Me*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.



EVAN UNDERBRINK (Rebecca Gibbs) – AT ZACH: *Everything About a Day (Almost)*, *Willy Wonka, Jr.* (Willy Wonka), *Golly Gee Whiz!*, *The People Garden*, *How to Eat Like a Child*. At Theater at the J: *Singin' in the Rain* (Lina Lamont), *Seussical* (Sour Kangaroo), *Frog and Toad*. Film credits include lead role in the award winning short, *Duplex*. Evan is a sixth grader at O.Henry Middle School.

About the Company



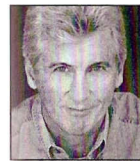
CHRISTIAN GUERRA (Wally Webb) – AT ZACH: *Everything About a Day (Almost)*. OTHER THEATRE: *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Oompa Loompa), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere) at Bailey Middle School ; ADDITIONAL CREDITS: National Junior Honor Society, football, baseball, soccer, Tae Kwon Do, percussionist.



JORDAN McRAE (Emily Webb) – joins ZACH for the first time. OTHER THEATRE: *The County Wife*, *Noises Off*, *Fool for Love*, and *Proof* at Elon University. *The Winter's Tale*, *MacBeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet* with the Red Umbrella Theatre Co. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Worked 2 years towards a B.F.A. in Acting at Elon University.



SCOTTY ROBERTS (Professor Willard, Constable Warren) – AT ZACH: White Gentleman and Policeman in *Porgy and Bess*, Senator Fipp in *Urinetown: The Musical*, Herr Schulz in *Cabaret*, Brian Clark/Robert Leonard in *bee-luther-hatchee*, Mr. Mushnick in *Little Shop Of Horrors*, Will Curtis in *Abundance*, Mendel in *Falsettos*, Harold Mitchell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. OTHER THEATRE: Swifty Lazar in *Frost/Nixon*; This One in *In On It*; Mr. Phelps in *Sweet Charity*; Marcellus Washburn in *The Music Man*; Tito Morelli in *Lend Me a Tenor*; Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!*; Harry Morton in *Sonny's Last Shot*; Sipos in *She Loves Me*; Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*; Luther Billis in *South Pacific*; Noah in *110 in the Shade*; Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*.



MARCO PERELLA* (Mr. Webb) – AT ZACH: Project Interact, *Christmas Carol*, *The Woolgatherer* (inaugural show on Whisenhunt Stage), *Shear Madness*, *Jack and Jill*, *Sideman*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Sonny's Last Shot* (act/direct), *Rounding Home* (act/direct), *Three-Penny Opera*, *Nashville Road* (lead/premiere), *Tarot for the New Age* (writer/one man show.) OFF-BROADWAY: *In the West* (act/co-writer/co-director Kennedy Center), *A Ride With Bob* (act/choreographer. Kennedy Center.) FILM: *Friday Night Lights*, *Fast Food Nation*, *A Scanner Darkly*, *Life of David Gale*, *Miss Congeniality*, *Lone Star*, *A Perfect World*, JFK. TELEVISION: *Walker: Texas Ranger*, *Wishbone*, *Beyond the Prairie*, *Tuskegee Airmen*, *Starkweather*, *Friday Night Lights*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: 25 years MC Austin Symphony. Mr. Perella is a member of the band The Melancholy Ramblers, and author of *The Adventures of a No Name Actor*.



BILLY HARDEN (Simon Stimson) – is in his 26th year as a performer on Austin stages. AT ZACH: *The Exonerated*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Avenue X*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Five Guys Named Mo*, *One Mo' Time*, *The Wiz*, *The Gospel at Colonius*, *Crowns*, *Bubblin' Brown Sugar* and *Purlie*. REGIONAL THEATER: *Trick the Devil*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *Fences*, *Two Trains Running*, *Purlie*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Eubie*, *Purlie*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Dark of the Moon*, *Spunk*, *The Great White Hope*, *Black Nativity* and *110 in the Shade*. FILM/TV: *The New Guy* and *Friday Night Lights*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: *Minister of Music* at the Metropolitan AME Church; assistant principal at the Alternative Learning Center – Austin ISD.

About the Company



LAURA BENEDICT (*Soloist, Wedding Singer*) – AT ZACH: *Always, Patsy Cline, Rockin' Christmas Party* (nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award), *Beehive* and *Soul Sisters*. For nine years, she was a member of the popular Texas show band "Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes" and was personally invited to perform at the White House and other Washington DC events for President Bush on several occasions. She has also performed with the bands "Hot Wax", "Groove Labs," "Memphis Train" and currently with "Special Interest" and "Three Blondes." Additional credits include studio projects for Walt Disney, Joe Scroggs, Bonnie Raitt, Jennifer Warnes and many more. She has also performed on numerous radio and television commercials on the local and national level, including the long running jingle for Thundercloud Subs.



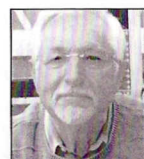
LANA DIETERICH (*Mrs. Soames*) – is a 30-year veteran Austin actor. AT ZACH: *The Grapes of Wrath, Who's Life Is It Anyway?, The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window, Picnic, The Philadelphia Story, Our Town, The Quotable Dorothy Parker* (the second show on ZACH's Whisenhunt stage), *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, and *Inspecting Carol*. FILM/TV: *Fast Food Nation* and *Teeth*; *Friday Night Lights* (Opening episode, season 3). OTHER: She received the 2003 Critics' Table Award as Best Actress in a Comedy. She is also a four-time B. Iden Payne award winner and a company member of Hyde Park Theatre. In 1995, Lana was selected by *The Austin Chronicle's* critics' poll as the *Best Name to See in a Theatre Program*.



DONELVAN THIGPEN (*Si Crowell*) – is making his first appearance at ZACH Theatre. OTHER THEATRE: *Arsenic and Old Lace, Rebel Without A Cause, Dr Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Les Misérables* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Cedar Park Middle School. *Cinderella, Aladdin Jr.* and *The Music Man Jr.* at Cypress Elementary.



MICHAEL MENDOZA (*Sam Craig*) – was most recently seen in *The Friend of Carols Mazon* at The Rollins and *Spooky Shakespeare* at The Curtain Theatre. AT ZACH: *Jesucristo Superestrella/Jesus Christ Superstar*. REGIONAL THEATRE: Austin Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet, Las Amandas* written by Michael Mendoza (*Las Amandas* was nominated for *The Austin Chronicle's* 2009 David Mark Cohen Award for best new play.) Michael also worked as a broadcast journalist at KUT, KVUE & KRGV. In San Antonio, he appeared on stage at the Majestic, The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center and at Jump-Start Performance Company.



DON OWEN (*Joe Stoddard*) – joins ZACH for the first time. He was most recently seen in *On Golden Pond* and *Trying* at The Paradox Players. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Bent* at The Blue Theatre, *The Hollow* with Different Stages, and *Bus Stop, Our Town, Avow* and *The Rainmaker* at The Paradox Players.

About the Company



LAURA CHEEK (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH for the first time. She has been an Intern with the ZACH Showstoppers for the past two years. She was most recently seen as Gina in Capital T's production of *I Heart Wal-Mart*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers, La Dispute, A Baker's Wife, Grease*, and *A Jump to the Left* at The University of Texas at Austin.



EMILY EVERIDGE (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH for the first time. A new graduate of Southwestern University, she was most recently seen in *The Rocky Horror Show*. OTHER UNIVERSITY CREDITS: *The Country Wife, Durang! Durang!, The House of Bernarda Alba, Tail End Charlie, Company, Seussical the Musical*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: The Leon Katz Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory.



BETHANY HARBAUGH (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH for the first time. FILM: *Wishful Thinking* with Motion Media. TELEVISION: *Funmi and Friends* with Knika Productions. OTHER THEATRE: *Greeks Alive!, Symphony of the Clouds, The Tempest, Wonderdog, Midsummer Night's Dream* with Pollyanna Theatre; *Shards of Love, Necessary Targets, Bus Stop* with Paradox Players; *Sherlock Holmes, The Rivals* (ATE Featured Actress Nomination) with Weird City Theatre; *Spoon River Anthology* with S.T.A.G.E. in Orlando, Fla. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A. from Texas State University-San Marcos, Character Performer at Walt Disney World.



EVA McQUADE (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH for the first time. She was most recently seen as the Nurse in the Austin Shakespeare Bilingual Production of *Romeo and Juliet*. TELEVISION: *World Youth Day Morning Update* with Eva and Mark. OTHER THEATER: *The Denials Improv Troupe* at the Overtime Theatre; *Annie Get Your Gun* at the Woodlawn Theatre; *An Evening with Shakespeare*, The Theatre at St. Mary's University.



BLAKE REEVES (*Baseball Player*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. He currently serves as an intern at ZACH in production, so most of his time is spent behind the scenes. Blake attended Baylor University, where he designed, choreographed and performed in a number of productions. He later returned to serve as the Coordinator of Special Performances for the university, producing and designing several shows. Blake currently studies at Texas State University, where he is focusing on theatre design and technology.



BEN VAN WINKLE (*Baseball Player*) – joins ZACH for the first time. He has lived in Austin for 8 months and his work includes several short films and commercials.

ZACH Leadership



DAVE STEAKLEY (*Producing Artistic Director*) – Dave is dedicated to creating a place where our community gathers for a collective imaginative act. Now in his 19th season, he invites and celebrates the diversity of voices that make Our Town such a unique and energizing place to live. Dave believes theatre offers an arena in which we might be challenged to understand not just our own lives, but also the world in which we live, and is committed to creating plays and musicals that open meaningful conversations on topics that have resonance in our community. Dave has led ZACH to unprecedented audience growth with artistic and organizational excellence:

WORLD PREMIERES

- New plays by Anna Deavere Smith, Steven Dietz, Everett Quinton, John Walch, Allen Robertson & The Flaming Idiots
- *365 Plays/365 Days* by Suzan-Lori Parks. ZACH served as the Austin hub and produced the opening & closing weeks of a nationwide, year-long festival
- *Jesucristo Superestrella/Jesus Christ Superstar*, ZACH created the first bi-lingual adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's landmark musical
- The Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, a jazz and R&B reinvention featuring an all-new score set in Katrina ravaged New Orleans, which received national acclaim from *The New York Times* and the Gershwin Estate

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

ON OVER 250 ZACH PRODUCTIONS INCLUDING:

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Grapes of Wrath, Caroline, or Change, The Clean House, Take Me Out, Present Laughter, I Am My Own Wife, Urinetown, Crowns, Omnium-Gatherum, Hair, The Pavilion, The Laramie Project, Hedwig, Jelly's Last Jam, Jou t, The America Play, The Who's Tommy, Dreamgirls, The Rocky Horror Show starring Joe York, *Full Gallop* starring Karen Kuykendall, *The Mystery of Irma Vep, Angels In America* and *Beehive*

REGIONAL DIRECTING CREDITS

Actors Theatre of Louisville, New Stage Theatre, American Heartland Theatre, WaterTower Theatre, City Theatre and Downstairs Cabaret

PLAYWRIGHT

- *Rockin' Christmas Party*, ZACH's annual holiday tradition that is also performed at theatres nationwide
- *Keepin' It Weird*, a play about Austin's unique character featured on CBS Sunday Morning, NPR, *The Wall Street Journal* and *American Theatre*

SERVICE TO THE THEATRE FIELD

- National Endowment for the Arts Theatre Panelist
- Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters Program Panelist
- National Alliance for Musical Theatre New Works Committee
- The University of Texas, St. Edward's University guest lecturer

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ZACH Leadership

RECOGNITION

- 2005 Austin Circle of Theaters Special Recognition Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Austin Theatre"
- City of Austin declares May 18, 2001 as "Dave Steakley Day" in recognition of his tremendous support of professional theatre in Central Texas
- *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" Readers Poll "Best Stage Director" six times
- Multiple Austin Critics' Table and B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Musical, Drama, Comedy, Director, Actor, Choreographer and Design
- 2000 Austin Under 40 Outstanding Arts & Entertainment Award
- *Austin Chronicle* "10 Best Productions of the Decade" selected Dave's productions of *The Gospel At Colonus* and *Ruthless! The Musical*



ELISBETH CHALLENGER (*Managing Director*) – joined ZACH Theatre as Managing Director in 2007 after having served as a non-profit consultant and the Executive Director of One World Theatre since moving to Austin. As ZACH's Managing Director, Elisbeth is responsible for a \$20M capital campaign towards the building of a new theatre as well as the management, development and finances of the organization. Under her guidance ZACH has just completed a Five Year Strategic Plan that will move the organization into the next phase of its significant expansion. Prior to Austin, she resided in the San Francisco bay area where she was Montalvo Arts Center's Executive Director, spending nearly 20 years with the organization. As Executive Director, Elisbeth led Montalvo's growth from a small, community-based organization into a major presenting venue and home to an internationally acclaimed artists' residency program. Other accomplishments during her tenure included increasing ticket sales from less than \$500K to more than \$4 million, expanding the patron base from 6,000 to 80,000, and raising more than \$20 million for capital projects. Earlier in her career, she served as Administrative Director for the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Education/Outreach Director of the Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf, and as department chair and faculty member of the performing arts department of The Purnell School in New Jersey. Elisbeth graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music with a bachelor's degree in fine arts in drama and musical theatre. She attended the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program, Center for Excellence in Nonprofit Management Leaders Institute in San Jose, Calif. and served in leadership roles for the American Leadership Forum, Silicon Valley, Saratoga Rotary Club, Junior League of San Jose and the Downtown Austin Alliance Parks Committee. She is currently serving on the National Alliance of Musical Theatre Festival Committee. Elisbeth has always had a passion for the theatre and performed for many years in summer stock, dinner theatre, and semi-professional productions on the east coast and in California.

JOIN ZACH THEATRE ON FACEBOOK.COM

About the Artistic Staff



JASON AMATO (*Lighting Design*) – Jason's career has spanned 15 years, designing over 450 local and international shows. In addition to designing at ZACH for 10 years, he is the resident lighting designer for Austin Shakespeare, Blue Lapis Light and the Vortex. Recent shows at ZACH: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Shooting Star*, *Beehive* and *Caroline, or Change*. The Austin Critics' Table

Awards has honored Jason for outstanding lighting in 25 shows. He has also received *B. Iden Payne Awards* for his lighting of *Troades*, *Trickster*, *The Exonerated*, *Omnium-Gatherum*, *Triskelion*, *Panoptikon*, *Despair's Book of Dreams* and *The Deluge*. In 2008, Jason received the "Outstanding Contribution to Austin Theater" award from Austin Circle of Theaters. You can view his work at www.jasonamato.com.



SUSAN BRANCH TOWNE (*Costume Design*) – Previous ZACH designs: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Clean House*, *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella*, *Present Laughter*, *Bad Dates*, *Urinetown*, *Aida*, *Cabaret*, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *The Laramie Project* and *Jelly's Last Jam*. Other Austin credits include *The Bat* for Austin

Lyric Opera; and *The Music Man*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Secret Garden* and *Crazy For You* for Zilker Theatre Productions. Favorite regional engagements include *King Lear*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *A Flea In Her Ear* at the Denver Center Theatre Company; *Crowns*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival; *My Fair Lady*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Chicago*, *Julius Caesar*, *Tartuffe*, *Richard III* and *Sophisticated Ladies* at Pioneer Theatre in Salt Lake City; and *The Producers*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Forum* for Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre. In New York, Susan designed for New York City Opera and numerous Off-Broadway productions. Susan is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University and the Yale School of Drama, and is a 24 year member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.



ALLEN ROBERTSON – (*Musical Director*) Allen is an Emmy Award-winning cocreator of the PBS children's show *The Biscuit Brothers*, as well as a co-producer, performer, writer and composer for the show. Allen is an award-winning musical director, playwright, actor, director, sound designer and musician, and has worked on hundreds of productions from Chicago to Japan and just about everywhere in between.

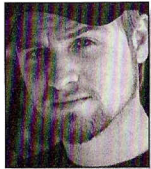
Additionally, he is a composer with credits including the documentary film *Beyond Black Rock*, the musical *Jouet* and the ballet *Secret Garden*.



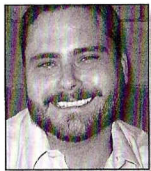
CRAIG BROCK (*Sound Design*) – A freelance audio engineer since 1989, he also works as a recording engineer and music producer. At ZACH Theatre: *Flaming Idiots*, *Spelling Bee*, *Love, Janis*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Let Me Down Easy*, *Shooting Star*, *Caroline or Change*, *The Clean House*, *Altar Boyz*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Speeding Motorcycle*, *Seussical*, *High School Musical*, *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella*, *Plaid Tidings*, *An Almost Holy Picture*, *Take Me Out*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *I Am My*

About the Artistic Staff

Own Wife, Urinetown, Hank Williams: Lost Highway, Rockin' Christmas Party, The Santaland Diaries, Crowns. REGIONAL: *Evil Dead, The Music Man, Romeo & Juliet, Starlight Express.* Album credits include: El Tri, Mana, Luis Miguel, Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, Barbra Streisand, Guns & Roses, David Crosby, Stephen Stills.



CHRISTOPHER COGSWELL (*Properties Master*) – joined ZACH Theatre in 2008. AT ZACH: Properties Designer for *Rockin' Christmas Party 2010, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Love Janis, Grapes of Wrath, Shooting Star, Let Me Down Easy, Caroline or Change*; and Properties Master for the *Flaming Idiots, The Santaland Diaries, Beehive, and Rockin' Christmas Party 2009.* Also, Designer and builder of ZACH's new prop rental, Milky White from *Into the Woods.* Photos are available online at www.zachtheatre.org. TELEVISION: Properties design for Discovery Channel; *Impaled.* OTHER THETRES: *Mary Stewart, Music Man, Black Bird, the Hallow.* COLLEGE: *Anything goes, Pride and Prejudice, Tempest, Treasure Island, The Pirates of Penzance, Anna in the Tropics.*



PAUL FLINT (*Director of Production*) – joined ZACH Theatre in 2008. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Shorter College and Master of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a focus on Technical Direction, Scenic Design and Arts Management. He has over ten years experience in technical theatre and has worked as a Technical Director for eight years. His theatre credits include the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Ga., Glimmer Glass Opera in Coopers Town, N.Y., Vivalist Theatre Company in Chicago, Ill. and a founding member of Seaside Repertory Theatre in Seaside, Fla.. Paul is the author of *Managing the Creative Mind: A Technical Director's Process.*



BLAIR HURRY (*Costume Shop Manager*) – grew up in Austin and studied Costume Design and Technology at the University of Texas. While attending UT, she designed costumes for *The Famous Rio Grande, The Trojan Women* and *Cabaret.* Her most recent costume design works include *Vampyress* for the Vortex Theatre, *Parade: A Musical* for St. Edward's University and *Shooting Star* for ZACH Theatre. She has built costumes for The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Ohio Light Opera Company and STAGES: St. Louis. She returned to Austin after touring as Head of Wardrobe and Make-up for the national tour of Playhouse Disney's *The Doodlebops LIVE!* and the 2008 National tour of The Moscow Ballet's *The Great Russian Nutcracker.* She is an active member of the local 205 IATSE union.



LISA GOERING* (*Stage Manager*) – has stage managed at ZACH on *The Flaming Idiots, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Jesus Christ Superstar, Crowns* and *Keepin' It Weird,* among others. In addition, she stage managed *An Ideal Husband* for Austin Shakespeare, but also keeps busy working as a dresser, sound board operator and in costume shops around town, and was fortunate enough to spend the last two summers building costumes for the Shakespeare Festival at the Old Globe

* Member Actors' Equity Association

About the Artistic Staff

Theatre in San Diego. You might remember seeing her onstage in *Carousel* and *A Christmas Carol* at ZACH and *The Snow Queen* with Second Youth.



JESSIE DOUGLAS (*Assistant Stage Manager*) – is a recent graduate from Texas State University, San Marcos, where she earned her B.A. in theater along with a business minor. Jessie spent a year in Juneau, Alaska working for Perseverance Theatre as the Company/Stage Management Fellow. Other credits include Stage Managing *Barefoot in the Park* at Unity Theater located in Brenham, Texas, and *Proof* produced by Thunder Mountain Theatre Project in Juneau, Alaska. She also served as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager on many projects throughout college.

SHELLEY MANIS (*Dramaturg*) – dramaturged last year's ZACH production of *The Grapes of Wrath.* She is a doctoral candidate in the Performance as Public Practice program in UT's Theatre & Dance Department. Her dissertation is called "More than Memory': Haunted Popular Performance in Post-9/11 America," and it reads Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul,* the Broadway musical *Wicked* and ABC television's *Lost* against the rhetoric of the post-9/11 Bush administration.



LILY WILLIAMS (*Interim Company Manager*) – A fresh face to both Austin and ZACH Theatre, Lily brings a great deal of enthusiasm to her interim position as the Company Manager. She graduated from Montana State University with degrees in Media & Theatre Arts and Spanish Language & Literature. During her time in Montana, Lily served as the producer and stage manager for numerous university productions, including *The Last Acts* and Allen Ball's *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress.*



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