

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

RENT

Book, Music & Lyrics by **JONATHAN LARSON**

Musical Arrangements
STEVE SKINNER

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics
BILLY ARONSON

Music Supervision and
Additional Arrangements
TIM WEIL

Original Dramaturg
LYNN THOMSON

Music Direction by **ALLEN ROBERTSON**

Choreography by **ROBIN LEWIS**

Directed by **DAVE STEAKLEY**

Set Design **MICHAEL RAIFORD**
Lighting Design **JASON AMATO**
Costume Design **ALISON HERYER**
Wig Design..... **WILLA KAYE WARREN**
Sound Design **CRAIG BROCK**
Properties Design **BLAKE REEVES**
Projection Design..... **ELIOT HAYNES & COLIN LOWRY**
Stage Manager **LISA GOERING**

September 16 - November 28, 2010
ZACH Theatre's Kleberg Stage

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and New York Theatre Workshop. RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: 212-541-4684. Fax: 212-397-4684. www.MTIShows.com.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

JOHN POINTER	Roger Davis
ANDREW CANNATA	Mark Cohen
RODERICK SANFORD	Tom Collins
STEVE WILLIAMS	Benjamin Coffin III
KRISTEN BENNETT	Joanne Jefferson
JOSHUA DENNING	Angel Dumott Schunard
KARMA STEWART	Mimi Marquez
GINGER LEIGH	Maureen Johnson
LARA WRIGHT	Mark's Mom, Alexi Darling, Homeless Woman
SCOTT SWANSON	Gordon, "Will I" soloist, The "Man", Thug, Mr. Grey
MICHAEL MUENCHOW	Mr. Jefferson, Homeless Man, Thug, Junkie
JESSIE DOUGLAS	Homeless Woman, Coat Vendor
VERITY BRANCO	Mrs. Jefferson, Sue, Junkie
STEPHEN JACK	Paul, Police, Waiter, Pastor
JOEL MERCADO-SEE	Squeegee Man, Steve
EVE ALONZO	Pam, Vendor, Roger's Mom
LINDSEY KNIGHT	Police, Homeless Woman
COURTNEY SANCHEZ	Blanket Person, "Seasons of Love" soloist, Mimi's Mom
RYAN SMITH	Ali, Junkie, "La Vie Boheme" soloist

BAND

ALLEN ROBERTSON	Conductor, Keyboards/Guitar (September 16 - October 10)
DAVID BREAUX	Conductor, Keyboards/Guitar (October 14 - November 28)
LANNIE HILBOLDT	Bass
BOB OVERTON	Guitar
JASON CONNOR	Keyboards
ARNIE YAÑEZ	Percussion

There will be one 15-minute intermission



Any taping, filming, recording, or broadcast of this play (musical or otherwise) and the taking of photographs either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Drinks and snacks are welcome in the theatre, but no snacking please. Remember to turn off your cell phone and/or pager prior to the show.

Musical Numbers

ACT I

<i>Tune Up #1</i>	Mark, Roger
<i>Voice Mail #1</i>	Mark's Mother
<i>Tune Up #2</i>	Mark, Roger, Collins, Benny
<i>Rent</i>	Company
<i>You Okay Honey?</i>	Angel, Collins, Man on Street
<i>Tune Up #3</i>	Mark, Roger
<i>One Song Glory</i>	Roger
<i>Light My Candle</i>	Mimi, Roger
<i>Voice Mail #2</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson
<i>Today 4 U</i>	Collins, Roger, Mark, Angel
<i>You'll See</i>	Benny, Mark, Roger, Collins, Angel
<i>Tango: Maureen</i>	Joanne, Mark
<i>Life Support</i>	Company
<i>Out Tonight</i>	Mimi
<i>Another Day</i>	Mimi, Roger, Company
<i>Will I?</i>	Company
<i>On the Street</i>	Company
<i>Santa Fe</i>	Collins, Angel, Mark
<i>I'll Cover You</i>	Angel, Collins
<i>We're Okay</i>	Joanne
<i>Christmas Bells</i>	Company
<i>Over the Moon</i>	Joanne
<i>La Vie Bohème (Part I)</i>	Company
<i>I Should Tell You</i>	Roger, Mimi
<i>La Vie Bohème (Part II)</i>	Company

15-minute intermission.

ENJOYING THIS PERFORMANCE? PLEASE
TELL FRIENDS AND SHARE THE FUN!

Musical Numbers

ACT II

<i>Seasons of Love</i>	Company
<i>Happy New Year (Part I)</i>	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne
<i>Voice Mail #3</i>	Mark's Mom, Alexi Darling
<i>Happy New Year (Part II)</i>	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, Benny
<i>Take Me or Leave Me</i>	Maureen, Joanne
<i>Seasons of Love (Reprise)</i>	Company
<i>Without You</i>	Roger, Mimi
<i>Voice Mail #4</i>	Alexi Darling
<i>Contact</i>	Company
<i>I'll Cover You (Reprise)</i>	Collins, Company
<i>Halloween</i>	Mark
<i>Goodbye Love</i>	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, Benny
<i>What You Own</i>	Mark, Roger
<i>Voice Mail #5</i>	Roger's Mother, Mimi's Mother, Mr. Jefferson, Mark's Mother
<i>Finale (Part I)</i>	Company
<i>Your Eyes</i>	Roger
<i>Finale (Part II)</i>	Company

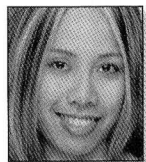
Production Support Provided By

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Education and Outreach Support Provided By



About the Company



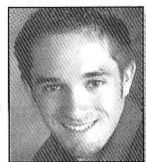
EVE ALONZO (*Ensemble*) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marcy Park), *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella* (Ensemble). REGIONAL THEATRE: *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Cobweb) with Austin Shakespeare at the Zilker Hillside Theatre, *The Fantasticks* (Luisa) at the Way Off Broadway Community Players, *The Music Man* at Tex-Arts, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at Zilker Theater, *Page and the Caterpillar* with Second Youth Theater, *The Wizard of Oz* with Broadway Texas.



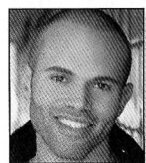
KRISTEN BENNETT (*Joanne*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *A Raisin in the Sun* at the City Theatre, *Hamilton Township* at Salvage Vanguard Theatre, *Wiley and the Hairy Man* at Second Youth Theatre (B. Iden Payne Award), *Fabulation or the Re-education of Undine* at ProArt Collective, and *Metamorphoses* at Mary Moody Northern Theatre. OTHER: She is a graduate of St. Edwards University, with a B.A. in Acting and a member of Shrewd Productions.



VERITY BRANCO (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Re: Psyche* with The Second Hand Theatre, *Black Snow* with Tutto Theatre, *Alice in Wonderland* at The City Theatre, *An Ideal Husband* with Austin Shakespeare, *Blasting Holes in the Night* with The Bitter Truth Theatre in Los Angeles. OTHER THEATRE: *Stop Kiss*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Shadow Box*, *The Trojan Women*, *The Three Sisters*, *Hair the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: M.F.A. in Acting from The University of Texas at Austin.



ANDREW CANNATA (*Mark*) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *John and Jen* at The Hideout Theatre. OTHER THEATRE: *The Pajama Game*, *Last 5 Years*, *My Favorite Year*, *Parade*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Anything Goes*.



JOSHUA DENNING (*Angel*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. INTERNATIONAL: *The Lion King* (Simba) Hamburg, Germany; *We Will Rock You* (Brit), Zurich, Switzerland; *Best of Musical* (Principle Soloist), Vienna, Austria. REGIONAL THEATRE: *In The Blood* (Reverend D), *Altered Stages*; *RENT* (Benny), The Weston Playhouse; *Miss Saigon*, Theater Under The Stars; *West Side Story* and *A Little Night Music*, The Human Race Theater Company. FILM: *Abrupt Decision* (Aaron), *Project Zed* (Jean Bernard). OTHER THEATRE: *Hot Summer Nights*, *Stage One*, The Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Seaside Music Theater, ADDITIONAL CREDITS: B.F.A. in Musical Theater from Wright State University.



JESSIE DOUGLAS (*Ensemble/Assistant Stage Manager*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta), Texas State University. OTHER: Douglas is a recent graduate from Texas State University, San Marcos, earning her B.A. in Theater along with a minor in Business. She spent a year in Juneau, Alaska, working for

About the Company

Perseverance Theatre as the Company/Stage Management Fellow. OTHER CREDITS: Stage Manager for *Barefoot in the Park* at Unity Theater in Brenham, Texas, and *Proof* at Thunder Mountain Theatre Project in Juneau, Alaska. She also served as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager on many projects throughout college.



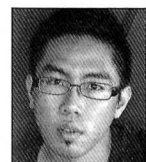
STEPHEN JACK (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Joseph), *Man of La Mancha* (Enselmo), *Big River* (Tom Sawyer), *Bawdy Five* (Neerbale), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad Majors), *Psycho Beach Party* (Yo-Yo), *Into the Woods* (Wolf), *Cabaret* (Clifford Bradshaw). OTHER CREDITS: He has also been seen in elementary schools across the country via videoconference systems to present educational marine science programs.



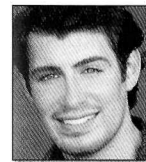
LINDSEY KNIGHT (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *The House Project* (B. Iden Payne Nomination, "Best Choreographer"), *Honky Tonk Angels*, *C/O The Grove*, *The Kentucky Cycle*, and *Once on This Island*, Mary Moody Northern Theatre. OTHER THEATRE: *The Fantasticks* (Luisa), *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby), *Our Town* (Emily Webb), *The Sound of Music* (Liesl). ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Production Singer for Carnival Cruise Lines; Singer/Dancer at the Starlite Theatre in Branson, MO. She holds a B.A. in Acting from St. Edward's University in Austin.



GINGER LEIGH (*Maureen*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. Leigh is taking leave from the road as a singer/songwriter and recording artist, and is venturing onto the ZACH Theater stage. Leigh's career has taken her across the globe, making her own music for fans everywhere. She has released eight CDs to date. As one of Austin's hardest working musicians, she has grown and developed a successful independent music career, from which she is spring-boarding into musical theater. If you enjoyed her performance tonight, and want to hear more, visit <http://patronism.com/GingerLeigh>. Pay whatever you feel, and you can legally download everything she's ever recorded - and everything she will record - for as long as you are a patron. Learn more at www.gleigh.com.



JOEL MERCADO-SEE (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Hair* (Woof), *A Chorus Line* (Mark), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Simon), *M. Butterfly* (Song Liling), *Godspell* (Jesus). TELEVISION: *Gilmore Girls*, *E.R.*, *Spyder Games*, *Sex & the City*, *The Division*, *JAG*, *Pasadena*, *Boston Public*. FILM: *Files of Death*, *Fate and Fury*, *Simone*. COMMERCIALS: Kodak. OTHER CREDITS: Lead singer and keyboardist for The Banters, solo album *Hitchhiker's Paradise* named in the *Houston Chronicle's* "Top 10 Albums of 2006".



MICHAEL MUENCHOW (*Ensemble*) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. OTHER THEATRE: *Amadeus*, *The Boys in the Band*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Exonerated*, *R&H's Cinderella*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. FILM: *Temple Grandin* (HBO films), *The Hitcher* (Focus Films). TELEVISION: "Friday Night Lights," finalist on the hit

About the Company

reality show "La Academia USA," and several local and national commercials. OTHER: Michael has worked in theatre and as a vocalist all over the U.S. and Mexico, and has been trained and mentored by Emilio and Gloria Estefan in his entertainment career.



JOHN POINTER (Roger) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella* (Judas), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Connie). OTHER: Pointer has won ten Austin Music Awards, starred in seven national television commercials as a human beatbox, and co-starred on Fox's *Prison Break*. He produces and performs live music showcases at ZACH Theatre, transforming these stages into concert halls for a night or two at a time. If you enjoyed his performance tonight and want to hear more, go to <http://patronism.com/JohnPointer>. Pay whatever you feel, and you can legally download everything he's ever recorded - and everything he will record - for as long as you are a patron.



COURTNEY SANCHEZ (Bag Lady, Soloist, Ensemble) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Dreamgirls* (1994 & 1996), *Gospel at Colonus*, *Porgy & Bess*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Courtney has been in music, theater, and dance for thirty three years. She has performed with and alongside Brannen Temple, Guy Forsyth, Patrice Pike, Malford Milligan, Matt Wilson and more. During the last 15 years, she has been performing with Roderick Sanford in the Austin wedding band The Atlantics as lead female singer and for the last 2 years she sang with the Monster Big Band as lead vocalist. She is proud to be a soloist and member of the Chorale at Riverbend Church with her husband Paul and this year she started a new musical journey with her original Neosoul band SWAY. She wishes to dedicate her 5th show at ZACH to her children Kendall and Brendan and in memory of her sweet stepdaughter Mia Reyna and sends them all the love their hearts can hold.



RODERICK SANFORD (Collins) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Porgy & Bess*, *Crowns* (2006), *Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, *Avenue X*, *Dreamgirls* (1995 & 1997), *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Rockin' Christmas Party* (1994-1997); *Soul Sisters* (1994 & 1995); *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, and *Once On This Island*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Little Shop of Horrors* (the voice of Audrey II), Broadway Austin; *Kiss Me Kate* (Casa Mañana Theatre, Ft. Worth); *Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* (Southwestern University). OTHER: Roderick has provided background vocals for Disney Storybook Recordings. Winner of the B. Iden Payne Award for "Outstanding Actor in a Musical" for *Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*; Critics' Table Award nomination for "Best Actor in a Musical" for *Avenue X*; B. Iden Payne nomination for "Featured Actor in a Musical" for ZACH's productions of *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Soul Sisters* and *The Gospel at Colonus*.



RYAN SMITH (Ensemble) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *City of Angels*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Hello Dolly*, *Peter Pan*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oliver*, *A Chorus Line*, *Once Upon a Mattress*. CONCERTS AND RECORDINGS: Five years of The Art of the American Song for Festival Hill's Music Library Fundraiser. Featured vocalist on Blue Octobers' *Consent to Treatment* album. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: In addition to recording with various local

About the Company

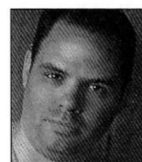
artists, Ryan has been seen playing her own music at clubs in Los Angeles and the Austin area, and you may also hear her in several local radio spots. She is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy New York and The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston.



KARMA STEWART (Mimi) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery* (B. Iden Payne Award Nominee), *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the State Theatre, *Baby It's You* at the Coast Theatre in Los Angeles, California. OTHER CREDITS: Karma is the former lead vocalist of the globally recognized hip-hop group PPP. The single "On a Cloud" featuring Stewart has been featured on "So You Think You Can Dance," "Drop Dead Diva," and "Damages." As a touring musician, Karma has electrified audiences across Europe and the U.S. with her magnetic style and vocal ability. She has collaborated with Grammy Award-winning producer Richard Perry, director Floyd Mutrux (*American Me*, *Dick Tracy*), and producer Jonathan Sanger (Vanilla Sky), to name a few.



SCOTT SWANSON (Ensemble) – returns to the ZACH stage, after taking a three-year hiatus to pursue an M.H. in Herbal Medicine. AT ZACH: *The Rocky Horror Show* (1999, 2000 and 2007), *The Who's Tommy*, *Evita*, *Aida*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Floyd Collins*, Scott Schroeder Presents; *The Music of Erica Zahn*, Vortex Repertory Theatre; *Phantom of the Opera* and *Damn Yankees*, Harlequin Dinner Theater. FILM: *Miss Congeniality*, *The Life of David Gale*, *The Music of Erica Zahn*. TELEVISION: *Scene After Dark*, *Lost Universe*, *Kishin Heidan*. ADDITIONAL CREDITS: Lead Vocalist and rhythm guitarist of Call the Circle, Dirty Angel, Renegade, Aftermath and Voyage. First Tenor of Opera-Music Theater Ensemble, Washington, D.C.



STEVE WILLIAMS (Benjamin Coffin, III) – joins ZACH Theatre for the first time. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Sleeping Beauty* at the Vortex Repertory Theatre; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Hello Dolly*, *A Few Good Men*, and *Lend Me a Tenor* at Georgetown Palace Theatre. ADDITIONAL THEATRE: *Songs for a New World*, *Oklahoma*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Grease*.



LARA WRIGHT (Mark's Mom, Alexi, Ensemble) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Kitty), the original production of *The Rocky Horror Show* in 1999. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Grease* (Rizzo), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey) and *Wait Until Dark* (Suzy). OTHER THEATRE: *The Margo Lee Show* (Darcy) at The Velveeta Room in Austin; *The Seagull* (Nina); *Come Back to the Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* (Edna); *Wild Honey* (Sofya) and *The Dining Room* at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts New York City. OTHER CREDITS: Graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts NYC.

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From The Director

When I first saw RENT 14 years ago, I knew we would one day be producing this rock opera that shares so many characteristics with Austin – a youthful bohemian culture populated with musicians, artists and creative types who are trying to hang onto their soul while growing up, and struggling to keep the gentrification out of the cool parts of the city.

But another aspect of RENT resonated with me in an ever deeper, more personal way. I will always associate this musical with John Whisenhunt, the man for whom ZACH's arena stage is named, even though he never saw the show. By 1991 when I came to work at ZACH, John had been on the Board of Directors for a dozen years and his passion as an audience member, advocate and supporter was unparalleled. Like actor Martin Burke's portrayal of the "Man in the Chair" in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, John had an enthusiasm for theatre that was contagious! We always joked back then that if there was a curtain going up in Texas, John could be found in the audience.

John died unexpectedly of AIDS to the shock of many of his colleagues and friends because he kept his illness private. A tragic end to a wonderful soul, who I found myself grieving shortly thereafter in the audience of a Broadway theatre throughout the performance of RENT. I made a vow that I would do what I could through ZACH to raise awareness and keep other beloved friends, audience members and ZACH artists from feeling the stigma, loneliness and hopelessness that John felt at the end. Since that time, our actors have collected contributions after performances for our friends at AIDS Services of Austin (ASA) who respond to HIV by providing services that enhance the health and well-being of individuals and the community in the face of this evolving epidemic.

Since 1996 ZACH's audience has generously contributed over \$150,000 to ASA. After this performance of RENT, our cast will be collecting your contributions in the lobby for ASA's Lee Manford Fund which provides the resources to ensure professional leadership retention and the longer term sustainability of the agency. Thanks to the Texas Commission on the Arts, there are HIV prevention educational materials available in our lobby and on the ZACH website, and we will be providing access to RENT performances for low-income individuals living with the disease. ZACH will also facilitate post-show discussions with our cast, and representatives from ASA, Project Transitions, ALLGO and Out Youth.

There are beloved HIV+ actors, musicians, designers and audience members at ZACH today, and like the characters sing in "La Vie Boheme," we toast to those "LIVING with, not dying from disease." No Day But Today.

– Dave Steakley



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 20th 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:

Metamorphoses, Our Town, 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, Jouët, 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 and Musical 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's Festival of New Musicals 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.

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About the Artistic Staff



ALLEN ROBERTSON (*Musical Director*) – Allen is an Emmy Award®-winning co-creator 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*.



ROBIN LEWIS (*Choreographer*) – is a twelve-year Broadway and national Broadway touring veteran. At ZACH Theatre, he has choreographed *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *High School Musical*, *Jesucristo Superestrella/Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. National credits include Broadway's *Fosse*, Dance Captain of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and Dance Captain of *A Christmas Carol* at Madison Square Gardens. He toured with the first national tour of *The Producers* with Jason Alexander and Martin Short in Hollywood, and he has toured in *A Chorus Line*, *Hello Dolly*, *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as performances at The Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Off-Broadway, he was the Dance Captain for Charles Busch's musical *The Green Heart* for the Manhattan Theatre Club. He has choreographed and done workshops all across the U.S. Robin is currently on faculty at Texas State University and heads the Musical Theatre Dance program for the new Musical Theater B.F.A. program. Lewis is the Co-Founder/Producer and Creative Director of TexArts in Austin. www.tex-arts.org



MICHAEL RAIFORD (*Set Design*) – is a freelance scenic and costume designer based in Austin. Michael has been a resident designer at ZACH Theatre for almost 20 years where he has designed more than 100 productions. Recent ZACH Theatre projects include: *Metamorphoses*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Becky's New Car*, *Let Me Down Easy*, *Love Janis*, *Shooting Star*, *Caroline, or Change*, *The Clean House*, and the new version of *Rockin' Christmas Party*. REGIONAL THEATRE: Michael is in his fifth season designing for the Humana Festival of New American Plays at The Actors Theater of Louisville. Favorite projects include: *Sirens* by Debra Zoe Laufer, *Fissures* by Dominique Serrand, *Phoenix* by Scott Organ and *Absalom* by Zoe Kazan. Other projects at ATL include *Jouet*, *Shipwrecked*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *The Kite Runner*. Other favorite regional productions include *Well*, *The Chosen* and *Inherit The Wind* (Cleveland Playhouse); *The Young Lady from Rwanda* (Kansas City Repertory Theatre); *Guys and Dolls* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Florida); *The Bartered Bride* at Opera Boston; *The Fantastiks* at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC; and *What Goes Up* (New Victory Theatre, NYC.) Other Austin productions include *Rigoletto* for Austin Lyric Opera; *Big Love* and *Tesla* for The Rude Mechanicals, and *When Something Wonderful Ends* for ZACH Theatre's beloved Barbara Chisholm. Michael received his M.F.A. from UT and is a member of United Scenic Artists.



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: *Metamorphoses*, *Becky's New Car*, *Our Town*, *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-*

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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.



ALISON HERYER (*Costume Designer*) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Doubt*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* and *Trojan Women*: 2010 Austin Critics Table Award for "Best Costume Design"; *The Bluest Eye*, *The Fall to Earth*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Orange Flower Water*, *Things Being What They Are*, and *World Set Free* at Steppenwolf Theatre; *Twilight Orchard* and *Seagull*: at Redmoon Theatre: *The Last Two Minutes of the Complete Works of Henrik Ibsen* at The NeoFuturists; *Red Scare* at Second City. FILM: *Dance with the One*. OTHER: Recipient of Chicago's 2010 Michael Philippi Certificate of Excellence. Alison also recently finished her MFA in Theatrical Design at the University of Texas at Austin.



CRAIG BROCK (*Sound Design*) – A freelance audio engineer since 1989, he also works as a recording engineer and music producer. AT ZACH THEATRE: *Metamorphoses*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Becky's New Car*, *Our Town*, *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*, *High School Musical*, *Jesus Christ Superstar/Jesucristo Superestrella*, *Take Me Out*, *Rocky Horror*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Urinetown*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *Rockin' Christmas Party*, *The Santaland Diaries*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Evil Dead*, *City of Angels*, *Dream*, *Annie*, *The Music Man*, *Starlight Express*. Album credits include: El Tri, Mana, Luis Miguel, Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, Barbra Streisand, Guns & Roses, David Crosby, Stephen Stills.



BLAKE REEVES (*Properties Design*) – Blake has worked with ZACH Theatre's production team in numerous facets for *The Flaming Idiots*, *Our Town*, *Becky's New Car*, *Metamorphoses* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He also performed with the outstanding cast of *Our Town*. Blake attended Baylor University, and during his time as a student, 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.



K. ELIOT HAYNES (*Projection Design*) – produces sound and video. Recent ZACH Theatre design credits include video for *Rockin' Christmas* and sound for *Doubt*. He enjoys being part of the ZACH production team having served as carpenter, Scene Shop Foreman and currently as the Interim Assistant Technical Director. Other video credits include *The Assumption* (Refraction Arts), *I Witness* (Tutto Theatre), *A Series with a Chair* and an *11-Foot Line* (Forklift Dance), *Dance Carousel* (Spunk Dance), and *The E Word* (Sharon Sparlin). He is also the Technical Director for Austin's own Fuse Box Festival.



COLIN LOWRY (*Live Design*) – is a producer of digital media. Some favorite design credits include *My Favorite Year* (Zilker Theater Productions), *Jouët* (ZACH Theatre, The Actors' Theatre of Louisville), *The Laramie Project* and *Limonade Tous Les Jours* (ZACH Theatre), *Pexo*, *Silent Circle*, *five2ten*, *Gyre and Flush* (Ariel Dance Theatre), *Rhythm of a Life* and *Souls of Our Feet* (Tapestry Dance Company), *The Tempest* and *The Little Prince* (State Theatre Company), *Writing*

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Austin's Lives (U.T. Humanities Institute), *Requiem for Tesla* and *How Late It Was How Late* - 2003-2004 Austin Critics' Table Award for Video Design - (Rude Mechs, Austin and Philadelphia Fringe Festival).



WILLA K. WARREN (*Wig Design*) – has designed hair for ZACH's productions of *Caroline*, or *Change*, *Keepin' It Weird*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *Aida*, *Cabaret*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Beehive*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Hair*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Master Class*, *Jouët*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Evita*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Angels in America*, *Tommy*, *Blues in the Night*, *The Taffetas*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Jack and Jill*, *Ruthless! The Musical*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Beehive* ('95-'2003), *Rockin' Christmas Party* ('95-'05), *Avenue X*, and *Das Barbecü*. She has been working and volunteering in the Austin art community for over 25 years.



LISA GOERING (*Stage Manager*) – AT ZACH THEATRE: Stage Manager for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Our Town*, *The Flaming Idiots*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Crowns* and *Keepin' It Weird*, among others. 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 Theatre in San Diego. She has appeared onstage in *Carousel* and *A Christmas Carol* at ZACH and *The Snow Queen* with Second Youth.



PAUL FLINT (*Director of Production*) – joined ZACH Theatre in 2008. He earned his B.F.A. from Shorter College and M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, with a focus on Technical Direction, Scenic Design and Arts Management. He has more than 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, New York, Vitalist Theatre Company in Chicago, Ill., and he is a founding member of Seaside Repertory Theatre in Seaside, Fla. Paul is the author of *Managing the Creative Mind: A Technical Director's Process*.



LILY WILLIAMS (*Company Manager*) – A fresh face to both Austin and ZACH Theatre, Lily brings a great deal of enthusiasm to her 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*. She has vast experience in the film, event management and visual art worlds.



JONATHAN LARSON (*Book, Music, Lyrics*) – received the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Rent*. He also won the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical and the 1994 Richard Rodgers Award for RENT and twice received The Gilman & Gonzales-Falla Theatre Foundation's Commendation Award. In 1989 he was granted the Stephen Sondheim Award from American Music Theatre Festival, where he contributed to the musical *Sitting on the Edge of the Future*. In 1988, he won the

(continued to next page)

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Richard Rodgers Development Grant for his rock musical *Superbia*, which was staged at Playwrights Horizon. He composed the score for the musical *J.P. Morgan Saves the Nation*, which was presented by En Garde Arts in 1995. Mr. Larson performed his rock monologue *tick, tick... BOOM!* at Second Stage Theatre, The Village Gate and New York Theatre Workshop. In addition to scoring and song writing for *Sesame Street*, he created music for a number of children's book-cassettes, including Steven Spielberg's *An American Tail* and *Land Before Time*. Other film scores include work for Rolling Stones magazine publisher Jann Wenner. He conceived, directed and wrote four original songs for "Away We Go," a musical video for children. *Rent*, his rock opera based on "La Boheme," had its world premiere on February 13, 1996 at New York Theatre Workshop. Mr. Larson died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on January 25, 1996, ten days before his 36th birthday.

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ZACH Staff

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Director of Production	Paul Flint, ext: 239
Company Manager.....	Lily Williams, ext: 242
Costume Shop Manager	Blair Hurry, ext: 237
Resident Lighting Designer	Jason Amato, www.jasonamato.com
Resident Scenic Designer.....	Michael Raiford
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Education Manager	Khara Vincent, ext: 236
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Sound Operators	Sam Kokajko
Video Designers	Eliot Haynes & Colin Lowery
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Costume Designer	Alison Heryer
Costume Shop Manager.....	Blair Hurry
Costume Shop Assistant.....	Katy Green
Stitchers	Monica Gibson, Lisa Goering, Katy Green, Sarah Hopkins, Shelly Long, Blair Hurry
Wardrobe Crew	Cassie Padgett
Wig Designer.....	Willa Kaye Warren
Hairstylist for Ms. Kristen Bennett.....	Rawny Stephenson
Assistant Lighting Designer	Patrick Anthony
Stage Manager	Lisa Goering
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Jessie Douglas
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Playbill	Rob Faubion & David Munns