

# GROUNDHOG DAY the musical



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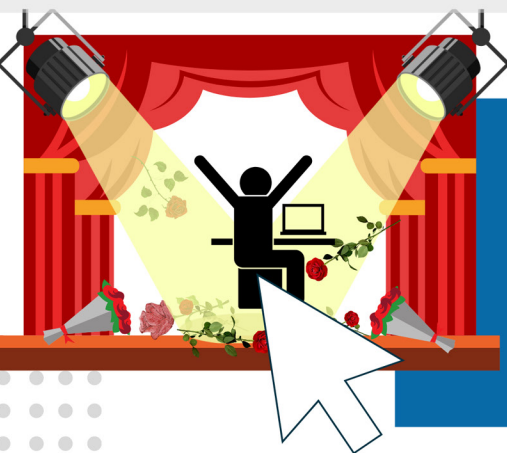
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**EPAC, Clark Associates, and 12:34 Microtechnologies**  
proudly present:

# **GROUNDHOG DAY** the musical

book by  
**DANNY RUBIN**

music by  
**TIM MINCHIN**

**Based on the Columbia Pictures Motion Picture  
and the story by Danny Rubin**

**MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>–APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**BEN GALOSI**  
director

**MATTHEW C. KIDD**  
music director

**KATELYN MARIE CORYELL PETLEY**  
choreographer

**NICOLE CLARK**  
stage manager

**JACK LEONARD**  
scenic designer

**MIKE RHOADS**  
scenic consultant

**LINDSAY ALAYNE STEVENS**  
lighting designer

**JARED ALVAREZ**  
sound designer

**GRANT PATRICK**  
audio consultant

**KATE WILLMAN**  
costume designer

**KEITH EYRICH**  
properties

**STEVE SCHELLING**  
technical director

**EDWARD R. FERNANDEZ**  
artistic director

**ALEC SKWARA**  
production manager

**ZACH HAINES**  
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Groundhog Day

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

*Orchestrations & Arrangements by Christopher Nightingale*

*Originally produced on Broadway, at the August Wilson Theatre, New York on April 17, 2017 by Whistle Pig,  
Columbia Live Stage, The Dodgers and Michael Watt.*

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# CAST OF *GROUNDHOG DAY*

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Phil Conners.....	Nick Smith
Rita Hanson.....	Stacia Renell Smith
Ned Ryerson.....	Travis Allen Zimmerman
Larry.....	Jeremy Patterson
Nancy Taylor.....	Alyssa Dienner
Mrs. Lancaster.....	Julia Smith
Sheriff.....	Bruce Weaver
Mr. Cleveland.....	Benjamin Wright
Mrs. Cleveland.....	Jessica Weidenhammer
Ralph.....	Brye Balla
Gus.....	Jeremy Ebert
Freddie.....	Damian Hemsley
Debbie.....	Tori Guhl
Buster.....	Adam Dienner
Deputy.....	Cody Hoppes
Joelle.....	Clara Laube
Doris.....	Jessie Reynolds
Jeff.....	Chadman Martin

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## ORCHESTRA

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Keyboard 1/Conductor.....	Matthew C. Kidd
Reed.....	Kayla Keating, Tim Puglio
Trumpet.....	Nolan Whitfield
Trombone.....	Sandy Harris
Keyboard 2.....	Bridget Wallace
Guitar.....	Braeden Seymour
Bass.....	Harley Ludy
Percussion.....	Kathy Lubbers

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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

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Phanfare for the Common Groundhog.....	Orchestra
Prelude/Tomorrow (There Will Be Sun).....	Company
Day One-Small Town USA.....	Phil, Company
Day One-Punxsatawney Phil.....	Company
Day One-Blizzard.....	Orchestra
Day One-Diary.....	Rita, Company
Day Two-Small Town USA.....	Phil, Company
Day Two-Punxsatawney Phil.....	Company
Day Two-Diary.....	Rita, Company
Day Three .....	Company
Stuck.....	Phil, Ensemble
Nobody Cares.....	Phil, Gus, Ralph, Ensemble
Philandering.....	Company
One Day .....	Company

*(There will be one 15-minute intermission)*

Entr'acte.....	Orchestra
Playing Nancy.....	Nancy
Hope.....	Phil, Ensemble
Everything About You.....	Phil, Rita
If I Had My Time Again.....	Rita, Phil, Ensemble
Everything About You (Reprise).....	Phil
Night Will Come.....	Ned
Philanthropy.....	Ensemble
Punxsutawney Rock .....	Piano Teacher
Seeing You .....	Phil, Company

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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In Buddhist training temples, a wake up bell prompts the unfolding of a daily ritual. This routine consists of donning the same clothes and performing the same rites in the same place every single day. Yet, unburdened by desire for change in circumstance, each moment of this ritual lifestyle maintains a sense of individuality and beauty. Fortunately, one does not need to dress oneself in a *kāśāya* or travel to a Buddhist monastery to engage in this philosophical framework. Many of us may already feel like the monotonous routines of our everyday lives are quite similar to this disciplined conduct. Without a change in our circumstances, how can we infuse our existences with the same sense of mindfulness as those who live under the *pātimokkha* discipline? What we may be missing is a strong vehicle towards inner development—which I believe can only be found within ourselves, our relationships, and our communal art. Apart from being heartwarming, hilarious, and set in the great state of PA, my primary lure towards producing *Groundhog Day* was these Buddhist principles at the core of its story.

It is my understanding that *Groundhog Day* is probably the greatest parable of our time. The title itself has become so folded into contemporary vernacular that it has almost grown independent of the 1993 film, as well as the iconic Pennsylvania Dutch tradition that first claimed the phrase. *Groundhog Day* has become a recognizable piece of phraseology that points towards our own perpetually repetitive existences. The inherent absurdity of human life and the prison of our own identities may be the most universal and timeless subjects to explore. *Groundhog Day* chooses to investigate these existential questions through the figure of Phil Conners, a curmudgeonly weatherman trapped in small town Pennsylvania.

Through the course of the story, we are asked to give our attention to Phil as he undergoes what is essentially an extensive period of psychoanalysis. In the Buddhist framework, Phil is experiencing *samsāra*: the continuous cycle of life, death, and rebirth. Phil's entrapment in a bleak winter forces him to face the prison of his own identity and plunges him into a cycle of hedonism and destructive nihilism. The hope of this thought experiment is that this extended spiritual crisis will lead Phil away from egotism and unhealthy desire. Eventually, his choice to pivot his lifestyle from an extractive experience to a subtractive experience transforms his karma and releases him into nirvana. The real voyage of discovery, as Proust puts it, exists not in seeing new landscapes, but having new eyes. Unable to adjust his spatial or temporal landscapes, Phil is forced to alter his internal perspective, adopting a mindset of mindfulness that allows him to be present in the moment of his monotonous daily life while also carrying the thread of goal-oriented behavior.

I wanted ritual to be a primary element of this production. On the surface, this alludes to the ritual daily routine of Phil Conners, as well as the quasi-religious ritual of *Groundhog Day* in Punxsutawney and its ancient roots. On a more abstract level, I am constantly curious about the ritual experience of a theatrical event. This production exists in a space that encourages introspection and mindful observation—a reminder that every moment of our lives presents a new beginning, and every choice we make has an impact on the community around us. I have been thinking a lot about the Japanese idiom of *mono no aware*, which portrays a sense of empathy towards the impermanence of things. By examining our own impermanence through the most ephemeral artform, I hope this production allows us to embody the spirit of Phil and—if we are lucky—begin to more clearly see our own shadows.

Ben Galosi  
Director, *Groundhog Day*



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# MEET THE CAST

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**Brye Balla (Ralph)** - Brye is returning to EPAC for his fourth season. EPAC credits include Larry the Lobster (*The SpongeBob Musical*), Barri/Ludovic (*Passion*), Simon (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), and Dennis (*Rock of Ages*). Time, in its linear fashion, grants us only the present. Brye dedicates this performance to his brother AJ, and grandfather Glenn, whose time swept away unexpectedly. May we meet on another timeline, where our singularities align once more. Maybe next Groundhog Day.



**Adam Dienner (Buster)** - Adam is jazzed to be back on the EPAC stage after a 3+ year hiatus! Last seen in late-2021 in *Something Rotten!*, he was previously seen at EPAC in *The Who's Tommy* (Tommy), *American Idiot* (Will), *Assassins*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and others. Adam also performs at other theatres in the Central PA region, and he is especially thankful to be onstage for this show with his wife, Alyssa. Thanks to Ben and the production team for this opportunity!



**Alyssa Dienner (Nancy Taylor)** - Last seen on the EPAC stage as Angie in *The Prom*, Alyssa is thrilled to be back for this delightful show. Past roles include Brooke Wyndham (*Legally Blonde*), Hedy LaRue (*How to Succeed*), Cathy (*Last Five Years*), and Diana (*Next to Normal*). Many thanks to the incredible cast and crew, as well as much love to her husband, Adam, and fur baby, Carl!



**Jeremy Ebert (Gus)** - Jeremy cannot thank this theater enough! He has had the privilege of acting on this stage for 13 years. EPAC has been a pillar of who Jeremy is and over the years gotten to play so many different characters. There are a few that changed him forever, and will be forever great fill to have been in them. *EQUUS* (Alan Strang), *Spring Awakening* (Geörge), *The Little Dog Laughed* (Alex), *Angels in America* (Louis), *Rock of Ages* (Drew).



**Phil the Groundhog** - Phil the Groundhog makes his stage debut in *Groundhog Day*, portraying the iconic weather-predicting hero of Punxsutawney. Known for his charm and symbolism of renewal, Phil brings magic to the story, highlighting nature's rhythms and new beginnings. Grateful to EPAC for the opportunity, he's excited to share this experience and hopes his performance brings joy to the audience! (*Translated from groundhogese*)

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# MEET THE CAST

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**Tori Guhl (Debbie)** - Tori is super excited to return to the EPAC stage in *Groundhog Day*! You may have last seen her here in *Gypsy* or as Carlotta in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Other favorite past credits include *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Betty Jean), *Cinderella* (Cinderella), and *The Music Man* (Marian). Tori would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support, and the EPAC team for giving her this opportunity! (she/her)



**Damian Hemsley (Freddie)** - Damian is very excited to be at epac once again! You may have seen him recently in *Elf, Jr.* as Walter and *Gypsy* as Pастey. He's also been in other shows here like *The Prom* (2023), *Les Miserables: School Edition* (2021), and *Newsies* (2019). Some of his favorite roles include Roger (*Grease*), Sam (*Mamma Mia!*), and Arthur Roeder (*Radium Girls*). He would love to thank his parents for supporting him over the years, and he hopes everyone enjoys the show!



**Cody Hoppes (Deputy)** - Cody is very excited to be performing in his first production with the Ephrata Performing Arts Center! Some of his other performances include *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rocky), and *Footloose* (Willard) with the KMC Onstage while stationed with the Army in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Cody would like to thank EPAC for this amazing opportunity to perform with them, and his family for always supporting him in everything he does!



**Clara Laube (Joelle)** - Clara is so excited to be back again on the EPAC stage as a part of the ensemble, having just been in their productions of *Gypsy* (Agnes), *Cabaret* (Lulu), and *Rock of Ages* (Sherrie). This obscure musical has been a favorite of hers and she is thrilled to be a part of the first production in Central PA.



**Chadman Martin (Jeff)** - Chadman is very excited to be doing his first production with Ephrata Performing Arts Center! Some of his other theatre credits include *Jump Jive and Jukebox*, *Big Fish*, and *Tuck Everlasting* (Servant Stage), as well as performing at Magic and Wonder's Christmas shows in 2024. Chadman would like to take some time to thank EPAC for this wonderful opportunity, and his parents for their constant love and support!

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# MEET THE CAST

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**Jeremy Patterson (Larry)** - Jeremy is grateful to be back on the EPAC stage having appeared previously in *The Motherf\*\*\*r with the Hat* (Ralph), *Ragtime* (Ensemble) and *Avenue Q* (Gary Coleman). He has worked with Susquehanna Stage, Open Stage, and Theater Harrisburg to name a few. All love to Harvey.



**Jessie Reynolds (Doris)** - Jessie is thrilled to return to the EPAC stage in *Groundhog Day* after a three-year hiatus. Recently, they were seen in *Pippin*, *Something Rotten!*, and *West Side Story* at Ephrata Performing Arts Center. One of their favorite roles was Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Jessie thanks Brady, Elena, and her parents for encouraging her to return to theater and for their constant love and support.



**Julia Smith (Mrs. Lancaster)** - Julia is delighted to return to the EPAC stage, once again renting rooms, last year as Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, this year as Mrs. Lancaster in *Groundhog Day*. A veteran of professional theatre, Julia travelled Germany, Switzerland, Brazil and the southwestern United States as a lead vocalist in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*. She is a psychiatric nurse in Reading, and lives with her family in Wyomissing. Thanks EPAC, the arts matter.



**Nick Smith (Phil Conners)** - Nick is jazzed for the regional debut of *Groundhog Day* alongside his lovely wife, Stacia. Notable past performances: Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls*); Bruce Bechdel (*Fun Home*); Harold Hill (*Music Man*); Cornelius Hackl (*Hello Dolly!*); The Emcee (*Cabaret*); Mark Cohen (*RENT*); Leo Bloom (*The Producers*). He is very grateful for this opportunity. In addition to theater, Nick loves being a Dog Dad to his three pups. Go Birds.



**Stacia Renell Smith (Rita Hanson)** - Stacia is exhilarated to return to the EPAC stage to partake in this theatrical journey with this gifted cast, pit, and crew. Notable past credits: Fosca (*Passion*); Eliza (*My Fair Lady*); Bea (*Something Rotten!*); and Mother (*Ragtime*). She extends her adoring appreciation to Ben for the opportunity to be onstage with this ensemble, particularly across from her husband, Nicky. Much gratitude to Ed, Matt, Kate, Stacey, and Nicole.

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# MEET THE CAST

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**Bruce Weaver (Sheriff)** - Bruce is happy to be back for the 2025 season in *Groundhog Day*. This marks Bruce's fifteenth show at EPAC and the sixth time he has played a policeman. Other roles include a policeman in *Annie*, *Oliver*, Murray the Cop in *The Odd Couple*, and Detective Cole in *Stop Kiss*. When not on-stage Bruce works as a DSM for Erie Insurance. He would like to thank his wife Kitty and Erie Insurance for supporting his theatrical endeavors.



**Jessica Weidenhammer (Mrs. Cleveland)** - Jessica is thrilled to return to the EPAC stage. Jessica graduated from West Chester University with a Bachelor's of Music, Outside Field in Theater, and minors in vocal, piano, and trumpet performance. Past performances include, *Gypsy*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Miserables* (Fulton) and *Cinderella* (RCT). Jessica lives with her husband, Rob and their two children, Desi & Brayden. Jessi is screaming thank you to her family and friends who support her passion for theater.



**Benjamin Wright (Mr. Cleveland)** - Benjamin is excited to be part of his first production at EPAC! Most recently, he was in *Legally Blonde* at the Hershey Area Playhouse. Benjamin wishes to express thanks to the cast and crew of *Groundhog Day* for making this a great experience. And, rightfully, his deepest gratitude and highest praise go out to his fiancé Jake, without whom he'd be fairly helpless. Enjoy the show! Come back tomorrow! (and tomorrow, and tomorrow....)



**Travis Allen Zimmerman (Ned Ryerson)** - Travis is thrilled to return to EPAC! He last appeared here in *Clybourne Park* (Jim/ Tom). Other EPAC credits include *Passion*, *Amadeus*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Ragtime*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Last year Travis performed in *Chess* (Molokov), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Phantom) at Mickey's Black Box. Huge thanks to family and friends for all the support! Ya gotta love life!



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# PRODUCTION STAFF

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Ben Galosi..... Director  
Matthew C. Kidd..... Music Director  
Katelyn Marie Coryell Petley..... Choreographer  
Nicole Clark..... Stage Manager  
Jack Leonard..... Scenic Designer  
Mike Rhoads..... Scenic Consultant  
Linsday Alayne Stevens..... Lighting Designer  
Nicole Anderson..... Light Board Operator  
Thomas Hudson..... Technical Consultant  
Jared Alvarez..... Sound Designer  
Gavin Alvarez..... Sound Board Operator  
Grant Patrick..... Audio Consultant  
Kate Willman..... Costume Designer  
Keith Eyrich..... Properties  
Steve Schelling..... Technical Director  
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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

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**Nicole Clark (Stage Manager)** Groundhog Day: The Musical marks Nicole's 10th show with EPAC! Previous credits include The Spongebob Musical, Amadeus, The Prom, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Phantom of the Opera, Rock of Ages, Angels in America: Millennium Approaches, Angels in America: Perestroika, and Gypsy. A Colorado Native and previously Boston-based Stage Manager, Production Manager, Carpenter and Technical Director, Nicole earned a BFA from Boston University in 2018 for Technical Production and Stage Management and will be seen later this season stage managing Parade.

**Keith Eyrich (Properties)** Ah, well, I attended Juilliard. I'm a graduate of the Harvard Business School. I travel quite extensively. I lived through the Black Plague and I had a pretty good time during that. I've seen The Exorcist about a hundred and sixty-seven times and it keeps getting funnier every single time I see it.

**Ben Galosi (Director)** is a recent graduate of Albright College, where he studied Arts Administration and Theatre. Last fall, he concluded his undergraduate education as an Advanced Director at the National Theatre Institute. His most recent directing credits at EPAC include last season's productions of Angels in America and Cabaret. As a young director, he strives to create valuable theatrical experiences that are precise, bold, and immediate. Through his work, he is interested in cultivating and challenging a new generation of theatre audiences and invigorating the artistic spirit of our community.

**Matthew C. Kidd (Music Director)** is a 2023 graduate of Penn State, receiving a BME in music education with a vocal emphasis, cross training in both classical and musical theater. Recent work: music director/accompanist for Selections from Dear Evan Hansen (Fidelity Theatricals; New York, NY), Willy Wonka (The Aloha Foundation; Fairlee, VT), and assistant music director/accompanist for Hello, Dolly (State College, PA).

**Jack Leonard (Scenic Designer)** is thrilled to return behind the scenes for his second time designing a set for his home away from home. As a Mechanical Design Engineer at TAIT, Jack develops technical solutions for live events and entertainment experiences, but designing sets for this theater remains his favorite creative outlet. He extends heartfelt thanks to Ed and Alec for their trust, Mike for his invaluable mentorship, and Ben, Nicole, and Steve for being inspiring and collaborative partners throughout this process.

**Katelyn Marie Coryell Petley (Choreographer)** is a Lancaster-based educator, creator, and theatre-maker. After receiving her BFA in Musical Theater from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, she has been teaching, directing, choreographing, and performing in the greater Lancaster area for six years. She's the Resident Director and Choreographer at Lancaster Mennonite School and the Musical Choreographer at Franklin & Marshall College. Katelyn is also a faculty member at Silver Spring Dance Conservatory where she teaches ballet and contemporary dance and she has been a member of the Creative Pursuits Studio artistic collective since 2020, operating her personal studio teaching ballet, tap, jazz, musical theater dance, modern, contemporary, technique, and strength and conditioning, as well as offering audition feedback and acting feedback to her students. She has choreographed solos for students who have gone on to compete and place in YAGP and Jewels performance competitions. Katelyn's pedagogy is holistic; regularly working with students of all ages, she believes in nurturing every aspect of each performer and creating a safe space for art to be made, exploration to occur, and both personal and technical growth to be fostered. Most recently Katelyn was seen performing in the 2024 Trust Dance Festival with Silver Spring Dance. Other relevant creative and teaching experience (\* notes upcoming): choreographer: Ride the Cyclone (Franklin & Marshall College, 2025)\*, director and choreographer: Little Women (Lancaster Mennonite School, 2025), director: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Lancaster Mennonite School 2024), Animal Farm (Lancaster Mennonite School 2023); director and choreographer: You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown! (Lancaster Mennonite School 2024). For a full resume visit: [katelyn-mariecoryell.com](mailto:katelyn-mariecoryell.com) @katelyncoryell

**Lindsay Alayne Stevens (Lighting Designer)** is a multidisciplinary designer, artist, and writer. She holds an MFA in Theater Design from UCSD ('21) and BFAs with High Honors from Marlboro College in Theater, Photography, and Writing ('17). She has designed for La Jolla Playhouse, InterAct Theatre, Pig Iron Theatre, Scripps Ranch Theatre, Snowy Range Summer Theatre Festival, terraNOVA Collective, Milburn Stone Theater, Surfflight Theatre, sheNYC Theatre Festival, and educational institutions across the country. She has been the resident lighting designer at her hometown theater, Bootless Stageworks, since 2017. More information can be found at [lastevensdesign.com](http://lastevensdesign.com). (she/her).

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# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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**Danny Rubin** - After many years writing and performing with improvisational theater companies in Chicago as well as scripting industrial films and children's television, Danny Rubin began writing feature films, including *Hear No Evil*, *S.F.W.*, and *Groundhog Day*. He continues writing for stage and screen, and teaches screenwriting throughout the US and internationally. Rubin holds a BA in biology from Brown University and an MA in Radio, Television, and Film from Northwestern University. He is married to librarian, web-designer and architect Louise Rubin with whom he shares a home in New Mexico, two children, and a bunch of guitars.

**Tim Minchin** - Tim Minchin is an Australian musician, comedian, composer, actor, writer and director. He has toured extensively in the US, UK and Australia, performing solo, with bands, and with symphony orchestras. He's released five DVDs, the most recent recorded with the Heritage Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. He is the composer lyricist of two hit West End / Broadway musicals, *Matilda* and *Groundhog Day*, both of which won the Olivier Award for Best West End Musical and garnered nominations for Best Score and Best Musical in Broadway's Tony Awards. Minchin wrote, produced and starred in the Sky Atlantic / Foxtel TV series, *Upright*, in 2019. Other screen-acting credits include Atticus Fetch in Season 6 of *Californication*, a Logie Award-winning Smasher Sullivan in the ABC's *Secret River*, and Friar Tuck in Lionsgate's *Robin Hood* reboot. Stage highlights include *Judas* in the UK / Australian Arena tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 2012, and *Rosencrantz* in the Sydney Theatre Company's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* the following year. He has published two books: the graphic novel, "Storm", and the illustrated children's book, "When I Grow Up". He is a member of the Order of Australia, a philanthropist and a mediocre juggler.



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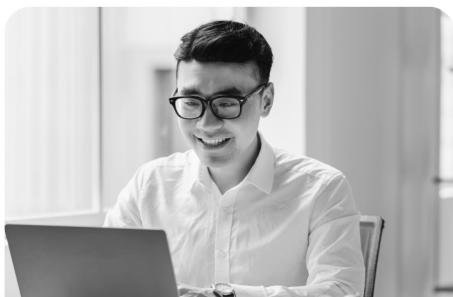
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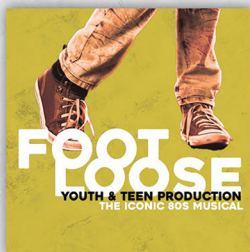
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# AUDIENCE SERVICES

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**Coats:**

A coat rack is available within the main lobby of the theater. EPAC is not responsible for any lost property. Please do not hang any personal property from railings in the theater.

**Electronics:**

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES, WHICH MAY INTERRUPT A PERFORMANCE. THE USE OF CAMERAS, VIDEO CAMERAS, AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Violators may be asked to leave at the discretion of management.

**Fire Notice:**

In the event of a fire, please exit the theater in a calm and orderly manner, making your way to any available exit. Please walk; do not run.

**Inclement Weather Policy:**

EPAC makes every effort to remain open during the winter and hurricane season. However, we are aware that at times the weather makes this impossible. Please check EPAC website and social media pages to check on any inclement weather closings. Additionally, EPAC will be announced on the WGAL Closings and Delays Website.

**Late Seating:**

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of Management.

**Lost & Found:**

Please see the Box Office for lost and found items.

**Medical Emergencies:**

Please report any medical emergency to the Management in the lobby or box office area.

**Safety Notice:**

For your safety, please do not leave your seat until the house lights come up.

**Smoking Policy:**

EPAC is a non-smoking facility; there is NO SMOKING within 15 feet of the building. Thank you!

**Ticket Sales & Exchange Policy:**

All sales are final, no refunds. Exchanges may be made no later than 24 hours before a performance. Non-subscribers will be charged a \$5 per ticket exchange fee. No exchanges will be made after curtain time for that performance.

# EPAC's GENEROUS DONORS

Thank you to the following donors, whose belief and generosity in the arts in Ephrata ensures that the best theatrical experiences can be found only at EPAC.

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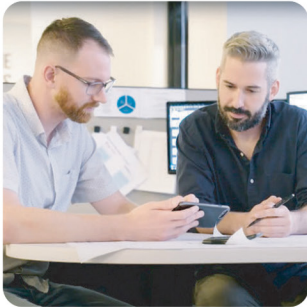
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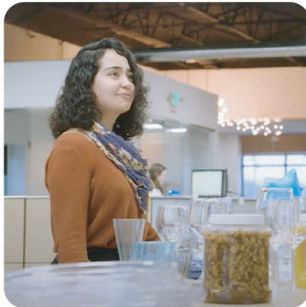
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