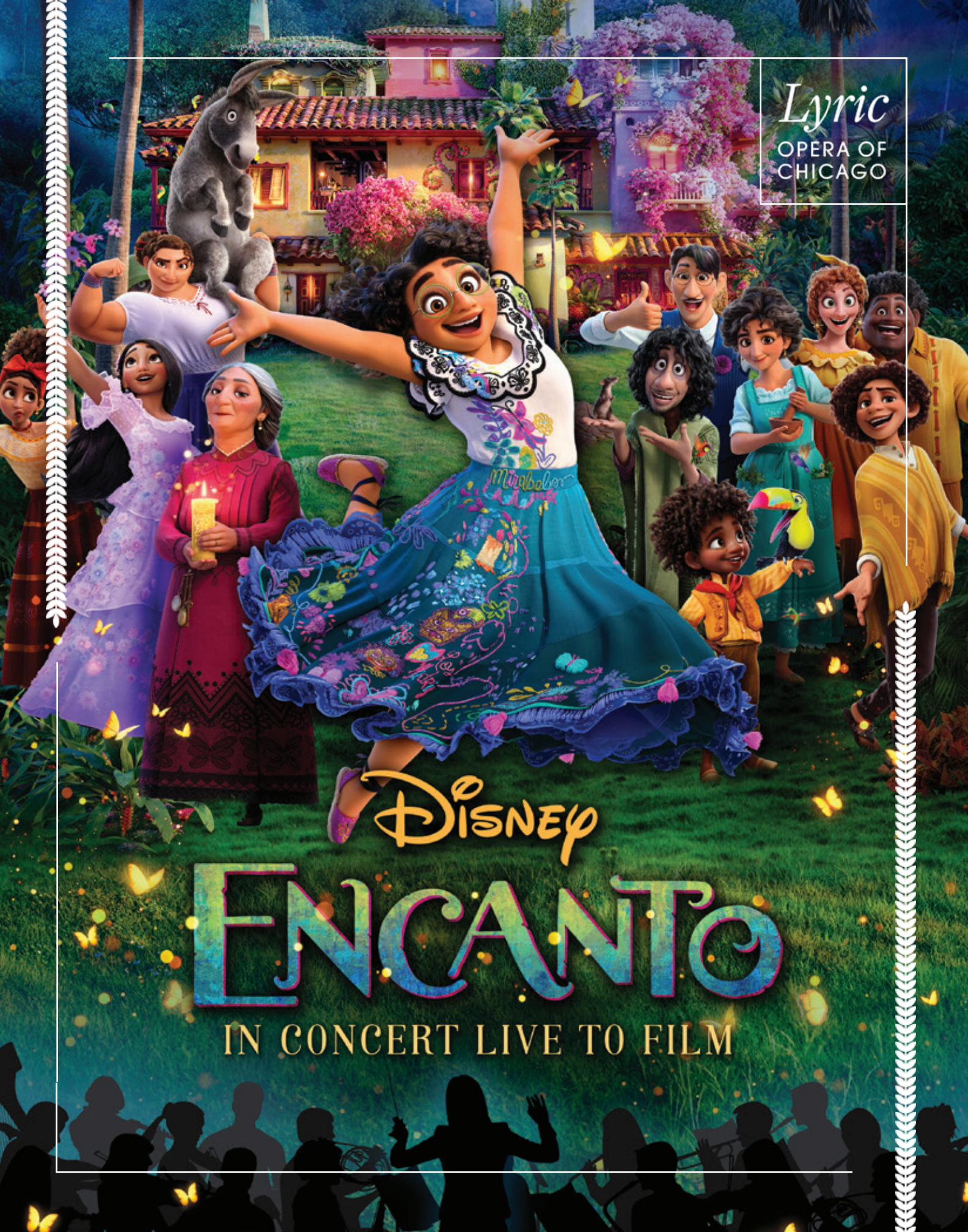

Lyric
OPERA OF CHICAGO
Disney
ENCANTO
IN CONCERT LIVE TO FILM

Lyric

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2026|27 SEASON

Movie Nights at Lyric
Amadeus LIVE
Jan. 15 & 16, 2027

Haydn
The Creation
Jan. 22 & 23, 2027

Massenet
Hérodiade: An Opera in Concert
Feb. 23 - 28, 2027

R. Strauss
Ariadne auf Naxos
Mar. 11 - 26, 2027

Verdi
La traviata
Mar. 24 - Apr. 25, 2027

Floyd
Susannah
Apr. 11 - 23, 2027

Artists in Concert
Sondra Radvanovsky & SeokJong Baek
Apr. 30 & May 2, 2027

Artists in Concert
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May 1, 2027

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IN CONCERT LIVE TO FILM

November 28 & 29, 2026

Gonzalo Farias, conductor
Lyric Opera Orchestra

Directed by	**Jared Bush, Byron Howard**
Co-Directed by	**Charise Castro Smith**
Produced by	**Yvett Merino, p.g.a., Clark Spencer, p.g.a.**
Executive Producer	**Jennifer Lee**
Screenplay by	**Charise Castro Smith, Jared Bush**
Original Story by	**Jared Bush, Byron Howard, Charise Castro Smith, Jason Hand, Nancy Kruse, Lin-Manuel Miranda**
Original Score by	**Germaine Franco**
Original Songs by	**Lin-Manuel Miranda**

Stage Manager: **Adrienne Bader**

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Today's performance lasts approximately 2 hours 10 minutes with one intermission.

The performance is a presentation of the feature film ***Encanto*** with a live performance of the film's score. Out of respect for the musicians and your fellow audience members, please remain seated until the conclusion of the end credits.

VOICE CAST

Mirabel	**Stephanie Beatriz**
Abuela Alma	**Maria Cecilia Botero**
Uncle Bruno	**John Leguizamo**
Luisa	**Jessica Darrow**
Isabella	**Diane Guerrero**
Agustin	**Wilmer Valderrama**
Toucan	**Alan Tudyk**

This film is Rated PG

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Original Motion Picture Soundtrack available on Walt Disney Records at Disneymusicemporium.com

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"The Family Madrigal," from Disney's *Encanto.*

Artist profiles



GERMAINE FRANCO
COMPOSER

The celebrated Mexican-American composer, conductor, songwriter, music producer, and percussionist received a GRAMMY® Award and an Oscar® nomination. She is particularly recognized for her work in animation and live action films, notably co-writing the songs for Disney/Pixar's *Coco* (which appeared at Lyric last season), and scoring *Dora and the Lost City of Gold* and *Tag*, among many others. With *Coco*, she became the first Latina to win an Annie Award for Outstanding Achievement for Music in an Animated Feature. With *Encanto*, she became the first female composer to score a Disney animated feature. She is also the first Latina composer to win a GRAMMY® Award for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media and a second Annie award in the same category with *Encanto*, shared with Lin-Manuel Miranda. She recently completed work on the Netflix hit, *The Mother*. Other highlight projects include her breakout scores for *Margarita* and the Sundance Festival darling *Dope*. Franco has performed as a percussionist with several major international orchestras and artists, including the Belgian Radio Orchestra, the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Hollywood Symphony, the World Orchestra, Hans Zimmer, John Powell, and Sergio Mendes. Her compositions have been performed by The National Symphony Orchestra, The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, The Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, The Chicago Philharmonic, and The Los Angeles Master Chorale. Franco is active in various philanthropic and music education endeavors and is a board member with the Neighborhood Music School in Boyle Heights, California.



GONZALO FARIAS
CONDUCTOR

Previously at Lyric: Coco *Live to Film* (2025/26).

Currently Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, Farias has held conducting posts with the Kansas City Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. As Music Director of the Joliet Symphony Orchestra, he strengthened community connections through innovative programming, pre-concert lectures, and bilingual collaborations, including a narrated performance of Bizet's *Carmen*. Recent and upcoming appearances include the Nashville Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Tallahassee Symphony, and the Houston Symphony, where in 2024 he conducted the world premiere of Arturo Márquez's *Guitar Concerto* with Pablo Sainz-Villegas. He was one of six conductors chosen for the prestigious Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, presented by the League of American Orchestras, and was appointed by the National Endowment for the Arts as a grant review panelist. Born in Santiago de Chile, Farias earned his bachelor's degree at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and continued his education at the New England Conservatory, studying under Wha-Kyung Byun and Russell Sherman. Further studies include conducting work with Donald Schleicher at the University of Illinois and with Marin Alsop at the Peabody Conservatory. He has won prizes at the Claudio Arrau International Piano Competition, Maria Canals, and Luis Sigall competitions.

Sharing His Gifts

Gonzalo Farias returns to conduct the score of another popular and meaningful film.

By Katherine Buzard



Farias on the podium with the Houston Symphony.

Chilean conductor Gonzalo Farias is no stranger to conducting beloved animated movies in concert. Last season, he made his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut conducting Disney and Pixar's *Coco* live to film. He has led *The Princess Bride in Concert* with the Kansas City Symphony, where he served as Associate Conductor. And now Farias, currently Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, returns to Lyric for another modern classic, Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Encanto*. Released in 2021, the film won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and multiple Grammy Awards for its vibrant soundtrack, which blends original songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda of *Hamilton* fame with an orchestral score by lauded composer Germaine Franco.

Farias rightly describes conducting films with a live orchestra as a unique art, "one that combines the precision of synchronization with the expressive power of live music." He follows an in-ear click track to keep the orchestra synchronized with the onscreen animation while also preserving the musical spontaneity of live performance. "The challenge — and the joy — comes in rediscovering the human side of music-making within these strict parameters," he says. "That is what transforms the experience



The conductor notes that the film shows how everyone should serve their community. Here, "Waiting For A Miracle" from Disney's *Encanto*.

beyond what you hear in a cinema: a live orchestra restores nuance, color, and vitality to the storytelling."

Like the score to *Coco*, which Franco co-wrote with Michael Giacchino, *Encanto's* soundtrack is rooted in the traditional music and instruments of the film's setting. Franco tapped into her Mexican heritage for *Coco*, which follows a Mexican boy who dreams of playing guitar despite his family's ban on music. For Encanto, set in the mountains of Colombia, Franco sought the expertise of Colombian musicians and immersed herself in the country's culture, literature, and music to try to capture its sound world with authenticity. The resulting score draws from various Colombian musical genres, including bambuco, vallenato, and cumbia, and integrates traditional folk instruments such as the marimba de chonta, accordion, tiple, bandola, and arpa llanera.

Experiencing one's heritage through music resonates deeply with Farias. "Music has always been my way of connecting with my own Chilean roots — of understanding myself through heritage, memory, and culture," he says. The traditional instruments used in the scores of *Coco* and *Encanto* are not merely decorative, he notes. Rather, "they are storytellers, carrying the voices and emotions of generations."

"What connects *Encanto* and *Coco* for me is how deeply music is woven into each family's story," Farias said. "In *Coco*, music carries memory and keeps us connected to people we've lost. In *Encanto*, it gives voice to feelings the family hasn't always been able to express: the pressure of expectations, the desire to be seen, and the need to be loved for who you are, beyond what you can do for others. As a conductor, I find both deeply moving."

Born in Santiago, Chile, Farias came to the United States at the age of 18 on a scholarship to study piano at the New England Conservatory in Boston. He has since made the United States his home. He transitioned from piano performance to orchestral conducting, earning



"Waiting For A Miracle," from Disney's *Encanto*.

further degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In addition to the post in Kansas City, he has been Associate Conductor at the Jacksonville Symphony, Assistant Conductor of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, a Conducting Fellow at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director of the Joliet Symphony Orchestra. He joined the Houston Symphony in 2023.

"It's not easy to be an immigrant, because you have to be so committed to your dream," he said in a 2025 interview. Though living a continent away from his family has meant missing holidays, birthdays, and other milestones, his love of conducting keeps him going. "I'm born to do this," he continued. "There's absolutely nothing else that makes me happier and more myself than this."

Farias's path of self-discovery mirrors that of *Encanto's* heroine. When Mirabel, the only Madrigal child without a magical power, realizes she is her family's only hope in saving their home, she finally comes into her own. Instead of trying to be someone she is not, she discovers that her special power was within her all along — and it was one that required no magic at all.

Discovering who you are is just the first step. What *Encanto* teaches is that we must use our gifts to serve the community. As a conductor, Farias sees it as his duty to do just that, using music as a force for good both inside and outside the concert hall. "An orchestra is itself a community," he says. "Everyone brings something personal, but we have to listen to one another and build something together. As a conductor, I have a responsibility to care for that process and help bring that spirit beyond the stage. Through music, human connection becomes something tangible, something we can hear and feel as we listen, respond, and create something together."

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Alyce Johnson

Piccolo
Alyce Johnson

Oboe
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English Horn
Judith Zunamon Lewis

Clarinet
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Bass Clarinet
Susan Warner, *Acting*

Bassoon
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Contrabassoon
Hanna Sterba, *Acting***

Horn
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Neil Kimel

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Trombone
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Mark Fisher, *Assistant Principal**
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Will Baker

Bass Trombone
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Kathy Butera
Colin Commager
Madeline Curtin
Toby Everhart
Erin Gray
Wesley Jones
Maria Kluber
Noah Ochander
Laura Osterlund
Eric Perrine
Paul Petrosky
Joseph Ryan
Ryan Saladin
Avery Sujkowski
Ellie Walters
Emily Werner
Roman Wood
Ticket Staff

TECHNICAL & PRODUCTION

Vincente F. Milianti
Chief Financial and Operating Officer

Technical
Michael Smallwood
Vice President, Technical and Production, The Allan and Elaine Muchin Endowed Chair
April Busch
Technical Operations Director
Maria DeFabo Akin
Production Design Director
Chris Maravich
Lighting and Video Director, Mary-Louise and James S. Aagaard Lighting Director Endowed Chair
Scott Wolfson
Technical Director
Kathryn Hill
Properties Director
Benji Sue McCormack
Associate Technical Director
Sarah Riffle
Assistant Lighting Director
Meryn Daly
Technical Finance Manager
Hanna Bowen
Assistant Technical Director
Bridget Williams
Assistant Lighting Designer
Audrey Wubbena
Lighting Assistant

Joe Dockweiler
Master Carpenter
Mike Reilly
Head Flyman/Automation
Chris Barker
Robert Hull, Jr.
Connor Ingersoll
Chase Torringa
Rigging/Automation Assistants
Phil Marcotte
Head Shop Carpenter
Brian Grenda
Layout Carpenter
Luigi Trupiano
Head Shop Welder
Isaiah Williams
Layout Welder
Dan DiBennardi,
Warehouse Coordinator
Anthony Bernardy
Ryan McGovern
Jacob Sullivan
Assistant Carpenters
Sean Baum
John Ingersoll
Jason Langer
Aiden McGovern
Dylan O'Shea
Jorge Ramirez
Tyler Gil Ramos
James Vega
Carpenters

Anthony Coia
Master Electrician
Soren Ersbak
Board Operator
Jose Villalpando
Titles Operator
John Clarke, Jr.
Thomas Hull
Dan Kuh
Robert Reynolds
Assistant Electricians
Jason Combs
Thomas Fernandez
Daniel Hull
Josh Nardella
Jacob Vega
Daniel Vuillaume
Electricians

Nick Charlan
Head Audio Technician
Matt Eble
FOH Engineer
Asiel Simpson
Matt Swiatkowski
Monitor Engineers

Bob Ladd
Property Master
Bob Hartge
Properties Crew Head
Gordon Granger
Prop Carpenter
Frank McPartlin
Armorer
Rachel Boultinghouse
Upholsterer
Mike Buerger
Kevin McPartlin
Jeff Streichhirsch
Assistant Properties

Joshua Dobbins
Daniel Donahue
Jordan Horn
Michael O'Donnell, Jr.
Johnny Rivers
Ian Scarlato
James Ullrich
Brian Walsh
Properties
Michael Besancon
Charge Artist
Pete Brown
Sarah Lewis
Rachel Meieretto
Michael Murtaugh
Brian Traynor
Scenic Artists
Alyssa Mohn
Scenic Artist Apprentice

Kim Buetzow
Costume Director, The Richard P. and Susan Kiphart Endowed Chair
Lucy Lindquist
Wardrobe Mistress

Lauren Crotty
Ellouise Davis
Nina Escobedo
Melissa Grzybek
Molly Herman
M. Kate Keefe Marcheschi
Cecylia Kinder
Bryan McDonald
Kelly Rose
Kathy Rubel
Herbie Ruiz
Marguerite Scott
Kate Shattock
Ewa Szylak
Michelle Tan
Costumers

Katelynn Barker
Samantha Holmes
Krystina Lowe
Sarah Santiago
Dulce Santillán
Isaac B. Turner
Production Administrators

Samantha Holmes
Wardrobe Crew Head

Scott Barker
Brigid Brown
Miora Brumfeld
Daniel Carter
Lauren Crotty
Dawn-Marie Hamilton
Sarah Kovacevic
Emily Lotspeich
Mary Luchsinger
Wendy McCay
Moira O'Neil
Lauren Phillips
Sarah Santiago
Roger Weir
Samantha Yonan
Dressers

John Metzner
Wig and Makeup Designer, The Marlys A. Beider Endowed Chair
Necole E. Bluhm
Department Coordinator

Lynn Koroulis
Shop Manager

Brittany Powers
Wig and Makeup Crew Foreman

Victoria Ashmore
Martha Contreras
Eric Daniels
Melissa Musseau
Macy Rea
Melanie Saso
Franni Valus
Wig & Makeup Run Crew

Victoria Ashmore
Colin Grice
Chantelle Johnson
Katie Kurz
Melanie Saso
Rebecca A. Scott
Wig Shop Staff

Production
Rachel A. Tobias
Production Stage Manager

Katrina Bachus
Jordan Lee Braun
Assistant Stage Directors

Adrienne Bader
Alaina Bartkowiak
Sandra Moore
Daniel Sokalski
Stage Managers

Adrienne Bader
Alaina Bartkowiak
Alycia Martin
Sandra Moore
Tommy Novak
Daniel Sokalski
Peggy Stenger
Amy C. Thompson
Assistant Stage Managers

Facilities
John Yelen
Senior Director of Facilities

Joe Minogue
Chief Engineer
Michael LaPorte
Lead Engineer

Phillip Casica
Dennis Cody
Anthony Fasano
Brian Laurence McMahon
Bernard McNeela
Kevin O'Keefe
Thomas Setina
Eric Zawaski
Engineers

Local 2: Stagehands
Local 476: Studio Mechanics
Local 769: Theatrical Wardrobe

Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection designers in Live Performance



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