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MRT is supported in part by a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.
Welcome to Cambodian Rock Band, a play with music that defies categorization. The LA Times captured it best, calling the show a “fierce, gorgeous, heartwarming, comedic fairy tale.” This is a play that engages, entertains, and enriches our community; a play that strengthens our efforts to reflect our community on stage.

Former Artistic Director Sean Daniels had his eye on Cambodian Rock Band for over a year. He would mention it in our season planning meetings and email us with updates. It’s an expensive play that we could not afford to do on our own—six actor-musicians, a sound system, projectors, and additional staff. When we had the opportunity to partner with two of our peer theatres to make it happen, we said yes.

This is former Artistic Director Sean Daniels’ legacy—he knew where we needed to go and found ways to get us there. During the interview process for the next artistic director, several candidates noted that MRT is at the midpoint of our journey creating remarkable new plays. Our next artistic director will lead us into the next chapter of this adventure. Together, we will bring you stories that fill you with joy, make your heart ache, and sometimes leave you disoriented; we will take risks and sometimes fail; and we will always do what it takes to bring you the best.

Thank you for joining us on this adventure. Stay tuned for our announcement of our newly named Nancy L. Donahue Artistic Director.

As we near the end of the calendar year, please think about supporting MRT with a donation. A show like Cambodian Rock Band is important for so many reasons, but it stretches our resources. Tickets and subscriptions cover less than half of our production costs, and your generosity takes us the rest of the way.

Thank you.

Bonnie J. Butkas
Executive Director

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Some very exciting news and some history…

The Merrimack Repertory Theatre production of Cambodian Rock Band is a co-production with Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago and City Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In March of 2019, Cambodian Rock Band began its rehearsals in Chicago and opened there in April. The next stop for Cambodian Rock Band was in September and early October in Pennsylvania. And, now in mid-October and the beginning of November of 2019, the MRT audiences get to witness this extraordinary piece.

A co-production sounds like what it is. Fundamentally we are sharing relevant art that matters to each of our communities, and we are sharing the costs of this production with our partners, so that we can all afford to bring work like this to life.

You know that making new work takes a significant amount of development to get it right. By uniting resources with our like-minded partners across the country, we strengthen our League of Resident Theatres (LORT Theatres like MRT), and we create a robust theatre community that extends well beyond the state lines of Massachusetts.

Everyone benefits. And, most importantly, you benefit.

Cambodian Rock Band takes us into the vibrant pre 1978 world of Cambodia when music was the soul of the country. We meet the artists as they create their work and live full free lives. Then we travel through time to 1978 Cambodia when “all the rules have changed.” We witness what happens when a government reigns down and takes life as we know it away. Everything from a song to a pair of eyeglasses has been stripped from daily life. Children become a commodity owned by the government. Food and health care are non-existent. An innocent person can be arrested because of “suspicious behavior” and ordered to prison without due process. Intellectualism is frowned upon, and human life is inconsequential.

We witness all of this in Cambodian Rock Band. And, we witness the power of song. We witness hope for a brighter future when generations yet unborn will find their freedom and voice because of the music played.

What a gift is Cambodian Rock Band. It shines a light on the unthinkable and reminds us how fragile it all is and how strong we all are.

With love and deepest respect for all who have suffered the cruelties of oppression, we at MRT are solemnly with you, support you, and are determined to create a safe haven for everyone.

Interim Artistic Director

Terry Berliner
Interim Artistic Director

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“WELCOME. THIS IS A DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE, ACCEPTING AND SAFE SPACE.”
INTERVIEW: Playwright Lauren Yee

In preparation for our EXPLORE: Cambodian Rock Band event, Marketing Associate Justin Scarelli conducted an interview via Skype with Playwright Lauren Yee. Here are a few excerpts. You can find the full interview on www.mrt.org or Facebook.

On the play’s resonance during the current political climate
“...I think that every play that’s good enough should be able to stand on its own, that if you write a story that’s rich enough no matter what time period you’re in, the emotions and the themes are going to resonate – a little differently, but strongly – no matter what. I do think right now it’s a particular joy and privilege to be able to present you the story of a father who is an immigrant in the present day. It’s a story about a Cambodian-American family. You have a daughter character, who had never been to Cambodia growing up and didn’t really know about her history and her past, and this is her chance to discover who she is and something about her father. I thinks it’s a joy to be able to share that story . . . joy and warmth. If there are certain resonances for the time we are in now, I think that’s great, but it’s not always the goal.”

On the importance of the songs in the play
“I think it’s kind of incredible to hear the music, and I think we rarely think of what our parents were like before they had kids. We kind of always think life started, their life started, when we were born, and that’s not true. So to be able to tell the story of a father, who had a deep connection with this music before she was born, before the Khmer Rouge, I think really shows the ways in which music can unlock memory – that you can hear a song you grew up listening to . . . that something is going to take you back and help unlock certain memories. Sometimes that can be painful but a lot of the time, that can be really cathartic.”

On what she hopes the audience will take away from the experience
“I want any audience, no matter who they are, to fall in love with this music. I want them to think about their relationships with their family – their parents, their grandparents – and think about the ways in which they’re able to identify with these characters. I think it would be great if they were curious about what happened in Cambodia and how their own country was complicit in the fall out of all that.”

(l-r) Matthew Yee, Peter Sipla, Aja Wiltshire, Eileen Doan, Greg Watanabe. Photo courtesy of Victory Gardens Theater.
BONNIE J. BUTKAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TERRY BERLINER
INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS
WITH VICTORY GARDENS THEATER AND CITY THEATRE COMPANY

CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND

BY
LAUREN YEE

FEATURING SONGS BY
DENGUE FEVER

STARRING

EILEEN DOAN
ALBERT PARK
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS POW

PETER SIPLA
GREG WATANABE
AJA WILTSHIRE

SCENIC DESIGNER
YU SHIBAGAKI

COSTUME DESIGNER
IZUMI INABA

LIGHTING DESIGNER
KEITH PARHAM

SOUND DESIGNER
MIKHAIL FISKEL

MUSIC DIRECTOR
MATT MACNELLY

DRAMATURG
SKYLER GRAY

FIGHT DIRECTOR
MATT HAWKINS

STAGE MANAGER
BECCA FREIFELD

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
HANNAH TODD

DIRECTED BY
MARTI LYONS

October 16 – November 10, 2019

Actors and Stage Managers appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association
+Member of Stage Director and Choreographers Society
+Member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829

Cambodian Rock Band is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH

Cambodian Rock Band was commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Time Warner Foundation

The play is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award

Developed with Support from the Ground Floor at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA

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CAST

Pou.......................................................................................... Eileen Doan
Duch.......................................................................................... Albert Park
Ted ....................................................................................... Christopher Thomas Pow
Rom............................................................................................ Peter Sipla
Chum .............................................................. Greg Watanabe
Neary ...................................................................................... Aja Wiltshire

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE STAFF

Associate Lighting Designer ....................................................... Megan Turnquist
Associate Sound Designer ...................................................... Joseph Palermo
Fight Captain ............................................................................. Peter Sipla
Music Captain ........................................................................... Eileen Doan
Live Audio Engineer .................................................................. Bekah Rudinec
Audio Technician ........................................................................ Marc Weaver
Projection Technician ................................................................... Elizabeth L. Gove

Special thanks to:
Our friends at MIT Music and Theater Arts

TIME AND PLACE

Phnom Penh, Cambodia (April 2008), outer Phnom Penh, Cambodia (April 1978), and Phnom Penh (April 1975) during the new year celebration.

Approximately two hours plus one 15-minute intermission.

MUSIC

"Uku" "Family Business" "One Thousand Tears of a Tarantula" "Cement Slippers" "Sni Bong" "Tooth and Nail" all written by Dengue Fever.
All Dengue Fever songs administered by Ellipsis Music Corp. (ASCAP) and Pentagon Lisperservices (BMI) on behalf of

CHHOM CHIMNEY • 1 ARMED CRAB PUB • FOOLISH MORTAL PUB • NOON KEY MUSIC
• SWOP SONGS • TROLL UNDER THE BRIDGE Dengue Fever music and
information are available from http://denguefevermusic.com

"The times They Are A-Changin" Written by Bob Dylan
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JEAS CYCLO by Yol Aularong: TODAY I LEARNT TO DRINK, OLD POT STILL COOKS GOOD RICE,
and I'M SIXTEEN by Voy Hoffas Serey Sothea, and CHAMPA
BATTAMBANG by Sinn Sisamouth.
All used by arrangement with Minky Records, Inc.
Additional Arrangements by Matthew MacNelly and Jane Lui.
EILEEN DOAN (Pou)
Regional: Cambodian Rock Band (Victory Gardens Theatre, City Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre); Anytown, New Kid (George Street Playhouse); Unto These Hills (Mountainside Theatre); Starstruck, Hair (University of Kentucky); Jeff The Monster (University of Central Lancashire). Music: Gently, A Matter of Time, Many the Miles, One Of You on Spotify, iTunes, etc. eileendoan.com @eileenlend

ALBERT PARK (Duch) is ecstatic for his debut at Merrimack Repertory Theatre! Regional and select credits: Cambodian Rock Band (City Theatre Company); Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (South Coast Repertory); Yoga Play (MOXIE Theatre); Vietgone (East West Players, LA Drama Critics Circle Award Nominee, Stage Scene LA Awardee); Soul Fire (Playwrights Project); The Car Plays 2018 (Moving Arts/Segerstrom Center for the Arts); The Oldest Boy (San Diego Repertory Theatre); All’s Well That Ends Well (The Old Globe); Jade Heart (MOXIE Theatre); The Winter’s Tale (The Old Globe); The Car Plays 2012 (Moving Arts/La Jolla Playhouse, Craig Noel Awardee); Extraordinary Chambers (Mo’olelo Performing Arts Company, Craig Noel Award Nominee); The Odd Couple (North Coast Repertory Theatre); A Man, His Wife, and His Hat (MOXIE Theatre); Golden Child (Chinese Pirate Productions); Lend Me a Tenor (North Coast Repertory Theatre); Flower Drum Song (SDAART/La Jolla Playhouse); Yellow Face (Mo’olelo Performing Arts Company); BFE (SDAART/La Jolla Playhouse). Albert is grateful to Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Jenny, Felix, Henry, and his newborn daughter, Coral.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS POW (Ted) is absolutely thrilled to be performing in Cambodian Rock Band at Merrimack Repertory Theater following its runs at Victory Theatre in Pittsburgh. Previous credits include Nathaniel/Marcade in Love’s Labour’s Lost; Macduff u/s in Macbeth, Posthumus/Cloten u/s in Cymbeline (Great River Shakespeare Festival); Ross u/s and Lennox u/s in Short Shakes! Macbeth (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); Nakatomi u/s in Yippee Ki-Yay: Merry Christmas (Yippee Productions LLC); Little John/The Sheriff u/s in Robin Hood (Adventure Stage Chicago); and Temple u/s in Frankenstein (Jackalope Theatre). He also appeared as Hank Barry in Silk Road Rising’s staged reading of A Great Migration by Preston Choi and voiced Jeff Balasco in Evil Kitten Production’s audio drama The Continuing Adventures of John Blade: Super Spy by Kyle Encinas. Christopher Thomas Pow is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent Representation.

PETER SIPLA (Rom) is thrilled to debut at Merrimack Repertory Theatre. He was most recently seen in Cambodian Rock Band in Pittsburgh at City Theatre and in Chicago at Victory Gardens Theatre. Other credits include Phra Alack in The King and I (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Henry in South Pacific (Drury Lane Theatre); Don Pedro inMuch Ado About Nothing (Oak Park Festival Theatre); Short Shakes: Romeo and Juliet and Passion (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Newsies and City of Angels (The Marriott Theatre), Wizard of Oz and Miss Saigon (Paramount Theatre), and work with TimeLine Theatre, Writers’ Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Brightside Theatre, Red Tape Theatre, Steel Beam Theatre, and Disney Cruise Line. Television credits include Hundley in Chicago Fire. He is a proud member of Actor’s Equity and a proud North Central College alum. Peter has recorded voiceovers for hundreds of commercials and industrials. @petersipla www.petersipla.com

GREG WATANABE (Chum)
Greg recently made his Broadway debut in Allegiance. Off-Broadway credits: The Ballad of Yachiyo (The Public) and Golden Child
WHO’S WHO
(Signature Theater). Recent appearances include the West coast premiere of Allegiance (East West Players-Japanese American Community Cultural Center), Hold These Truths (Perseverance Theater, New Century Theater), Caught (Artists Repertory Theatre), The Language Archive (Portland Playhouse), Exit the King (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), and A Single Shard (People’s Light). Other regional credits include the world premiere productions of The Summer Moon (A Contemporary Theater), The Happy Ones (South Coast Repertory Theatre), L. A. Drama Critics Circle nomination, Best Featured Performance), and Extraordinary Chambers (Geffen Playhouse, Ovation nomination, Best Featured Actor). Others favors include Yellow Face (Mo’olelo Performing Arts Company, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle nomination, Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play), No-No Boy (adapted by Ken Narasaki). Greg is a member of the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors, an Asian American comedy troupe.

AJA WILTSHIRE
(Neary/Sothaea) is so excited to bring CRB to MRT. Credits: Pirates of Penzance and HMS Pinafore (Hypocrites & Olney Theatre Center), Cambodian Rock Band (City Theatre). Chicago credits: Cambodian Rock Band (Victory Gardens); Aristophanesathon, Cinderella at the Theatre of Potatoes (Hypocrites); Merrily We Roll Along (Porchlight Music Theatre); Little Fish (Kokandy Productions); Hookman (Steeple Theatre); Spring Awakening (Griffin Theatre); The Wedding Singer (Haven Theatre); Closer, Next Fall, and The Lyons (AstonRep). Aja is represented by Stewart Talent.

LAUREN YEE (Playwright) is a playwright born and raised in San Francisco. She currently lives in New York City. Her play Cambodian Rock Band, with music by Dengue Fever, premiered at South Coast Rep and is at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival this season, followed by La Jolla Playhouse, Victory Gardens, City Theatre, and Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Her play The Great Leap has been produced at the Denver Center, Seattle Repertory, Atlantic Theatre, and the Guthrie, with future productions at Arts Club and InterAct Theatre. Also upcoming: The Song of Summer at Trinity Rep. Lauren Yee’s play King of the Yees premiered at The Goodman Theatre and Center Theatre Group, followed by productions at ACT Theatre, Canada’s National Arts Centre, and Baltimore Center Stage. Other plays include Ching Chong Chinaman (Pan Asian, Mu Performing Arts), The Hatmaker’s Wife (Playwrights Realm, Moxie, PlayPenn), Hookman (Encore, Company One), In a World (SF Playhouse, Cleveland Public, Strawdog), Sanssara (Victory Gardens, O’Neill Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival), and The Tiger Among Us (MAP Fund, Mu). She was a Dramatists Guild fellow, a MacDowell fellow, a MAP Fund grantee, a member of The Public Theater’s Emerging Writers Group, a Time Warner Fellow at the Women’s Project Playwrights Lab, the Shank playwright-in-residence at Second Stage Theatre, a Playwrights’ Center Core Writer, and the Page One resident playwright at Playwrights Realm. She is the winner of the Horton Foote Prize, the Kesselring Prize, and the Francesca Primus Prize. She has been a finalist for the Edward M. Kennedy Prize, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the ATCA/Steinberg Award, the Jerome Fellowship, the PONY Fellowship, the Princess Grace Award, the Sundance Theatre Lab, the Wasserstein Prize. Her play The Hatmaker’s Wife was an Outer Critics Circle nominee for the John Gassner Award.

MARTI LYONS (Director) Marti is thrilled to be at Merrimack Repertory with Cambodian Rock Band by Lauren Yee as part of this wonderful co-production between Merrimack, City Theatre in Pittsburgh, and Victory Gardens Theatre. Marti most recently directed Witch by Jen Silverman at the. Geffen Playhouse in LA. Marti also directed the world premiere of Witch at Writers Theatre in Chicago last season. This year Marti also directed How to Defend Yourself by Lily Padilla for the 2019 Humana Festival as part of a co-world premiere with Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago, where Marti will direct the play again in 2020. Marti has directed Botticelli in the Fire by Jordan Tannahill (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company); The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe and Kings by Sarah Burgess (Studio Theatre); Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner (Court Theatre); Short Shakes! Macbeth and Short Shakes! Romeo and Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Title and Deed by Will Eno (Lookingglass Theatre Company), The Merry Wives of Windsor and Twelfth Night (Montana Shakespeare), Wondrous Strange by Meg Miroshnik, Jiehia Park and Martyna Majok for the 2015 Humana Festival (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Mine and Bethany by Laura Marks (The Gift Theatre), Prowess by Ike Holter (Jackalope Theatre) Give it all Back by Calamity West, 9 Circles by Bill Cain, and Maria/Stuart by Jason Grote (Sideshow Theatre). This season Marti will direct The Nericies by Eleanor Burgess (Writers Theatre), How to Defend Yourself by Lily Padilla (Victory Gardens Theatre), Jen Silverman’s The Moors (A Red Orchard Theatre), and the world premiere of The Scarlet Letter by Kate Hamill (South Coast Repertory). Marti is an ensemble member with The Gift Theatre, an Artistic Associate with Sideshow Theatre, and a proud member of SDC. For more information: martilyons.com.

IZUMI INABA (Costume Designer) is originally from Tokyo, Japan, and currently based in Chicago. Recent Chicago: Twilight Bowl (The Goodman Theatre); A Doll’s House, Part Two, We Are Proud To Present... (Steppenwolf); Cambodian Rock Band, If I Forget (Victoria Gardens); A Doll’s House (Writers); The Mother of the Maid (Northlight). Regional: Milwaukee Rep, Repertory Theatre at St. Louis, Baltimore Center Stage, Kirk Douglas Theatre. Awards and Exhibitions: Jeff Awards, USITT, Prague Quadrennial (2019). Izumi is a resident artist at Albany Park Theatre Project and holds MFA in Stage Design from Northwestern University.

KEITH PARHAM (Lighting Designer) BROADWAY: Therese Raquin (Roundabout Theatre Company). OFF-BROADWAY: Man from Nebraska (Second Stage Theatre) The Purple Lights of Joppa Illinois, Between Riverside and Crazy (Atlantic Theatre Company); Tribes, Red Light Winter (Barrow Street Theatre); Stop the Vurgins (Karen O at St. Ann’s Warehouse/ Sydney Opera House); Ivanov, Three Sisters (CSC), A Minister’s Wife (Lincoln Center Theatre) ; Adding Machine A Musical (Minetta Lane). REGIONAL: Father Comes Home From The Wars, The Wolves, Uncle Vanya (Goodman Theatre); All My Sons, The Hard Problem, Blues for an Alabama Sky, Man in the Ring (Court Theatre); The Way the Mountain Moved (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); Wild Goose Dreams (La Jolla Playhouse); Carousel (Arena Stage); TUTA Company Member: The Edge of Our Bodies, Gentle, Music Hall, The Anyway Cabaret, The Jewels, The Silent Language.

YU SHIBAGAKI (Scenic Designer) is a Chicago and NYC based set designer, born and raised in Japan. Recent credits include The Brother Size (Steppenwolf Theatre), Cambodian Rock Band (Victory Gardens and City Theatre Company), Pride and Prejudice (Heritage Theater Festival), Fun Home, Mojada, Appropriate (Victory Gardens Theater); Witch, Vietgone (Writers Theatre); Mansfield Park (Northlight Theatre); The Father (Remy Bumppo Theatre); and more. Upcoming productions are Her Honor Jane Byrne (Lookingglass Theatre), How to Defend Yourself (Victory Gardens Theatre) and School Girls (Goodman Theatre).

MIKHAIL FISKEL (Sound Designer) Victory Gardens Theater: Rightlynd, Lettie, Native Gardens, Wonder in My Soul, Oedipus El Rey, Mojada; Cambodian Rock Band (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); This Flat Earth, The Treasurer, A Life (Playwrights Horizons); King of the Yees (Center Theatre Group, Goodman Theatre); The Wolves (Studio Theatre, Goodman Theatre); The Old Man and the Old Moon (Writers Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, New Victory, City Theatre, and The Old Globe); Mary Stuart, Book of Joseph, SS! Romeo and Juliet (Chicago
Shakespeare Theater); Witch, Buried Child, The Hunter and The Bear (Writers Theatre), The Undertaking (The Civilians/Brooklyn Academy of Music); Seize The King, Tiger Style (La Jolla Playhouse); Learning Curve (Albany Park Theatre Project/Third Fall Projects; We are only alive a very short amount of time, Lady in Denmark, The Sign in Sidney Bradstein’s Window, 2,666, Venus in Furs, Buzzer (Goodman Theatre), The World of Extreme Happiness (Goodman Theatre, Manhattan Theater Club).

MATT MACNELLY (Music Director) is a musician and actor living in Los Angeles. Music direction: Cambodian Rock Band (South Coast Repertory, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse). Original music: This might be the end (The Trip); Our Town (La Jolla Playhouse); In Search of Duende (UNESCO World Theater Festival, Peru). Acting: Glengarry Glen Ross (La Jolla Playhouse); Time Sensitive (Guthrie Theater); Voyzec (Ensemble Company Theatre); Lysistrata (Syntetic Theatre); Fourteen Flights (New York Fringe Festival); Much Ado about Nothing (Folger Theatre); F*king A (Studio Theatre). Film: Minor Turbulence, lady-like, The War Inside. TV: Rizzoli and Isles. Education: MFA in Acting, UC San Diego; BA in Theatre and Performance, Georgetown University. www.matthewmacnelly.com

MATT HAWKINS (Fight Director) is a Chicago based director, actor, fight choreographer and movement director. He has been nominated for thirteen Jeff Awards and has received five. He holds a BFA in acting from Southern Methodist University and an MFA in directing from The University of Iowa. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Notre Dame, where he serves as Creative Producer of the New Works Lab and Head of Musical Theatre for the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre. He is married to actor/director/playwright Stacy Soltz.

HANNAH TODD (Associate Director) Hannah Todd is a director based in Chicago, where she has directed at the Apollo Theater (Thrones! A Musical Parody), assistant directed at Northlight Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. She is a Stakeholder with the Back Room Shakespeare Project. In Washington, DC. Hannah co-founded We Happy Few Productions, where she has directed Hamlet, The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, The Winter’s Tale, The Dog in the Mang, and Macbeth. Also in DC, Hannah assistant directed at Folger Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, and Studio Theatre, and directed for Theater Alliance, Capital Fringe Festival, Source Festival, and Lean & Hungry Theatre. Hannah holds a BA from Hampshire College and an MFA in Directing from Northwestern University.

MEGAN TURNQUIST (Associate Lighting Designer) Megan Turnquist is a Chicago based designer. Chicagoland credits include Eclipsed (Pegasus Players); Christmas Carol, Arc Tri- als (Mudlark); Myths and Hymns, Veronica’s Room (Bohemian Theatre Ensemble); Antigone, Julius Caesar (Wheaton College); Rosen- crantz and Guildenstern... (Promethean Theatre Ensemble). Regional credits include Guys and Dolls, Macbeth, A Midsummer Nights Dream (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). Regional assistant work includes Oregon Shakespeare Festival and San Francisco Opera. Megan has an MFA in lighting design from Purdue University.

JOSEPH PALERMO (Associate Sound Designer) Joseph Palermo is a Chicago based Sound Designer and Digital Technologist who is quite pleased to be here for your listening pleasure. He’s been recognized at the Cannes Film Festival, the Chicago Merrit Awards, and University of Glasgow for excellence in Design and Design Concepts. He just completed his second summer season at The Cape Playhouse as the Resident Sound Designer and Audio Engineer and is preparing to embark into his fifth season designing The Polar Express with Warner Brothers and Amtrak. His most recent creative obsessions include recording things in an underwater environment and applying the concepts of Quantum Physics to composition. Joseph is a proud member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association.

BECCA FREIFELD (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to return to Merrimack Rep after stage managing last season’s delightful Slow Food. Area stage management credits include Cloud 9 (The Nora Theatre Co. @ Central Square Theater); the regional premiere of Cardboard Jews Walk into a War, Man of La Mancha, Oleanna, Thurgood (original run & on tour), Fiddler on the Roof, and Good (New Reper- tory Theatre); Dancing at Lughnasa (Gloucester Stage Co.); Every Brilliant Thing (SpeakEasy Stage Company); Barbecue (Lyric Stage Company of Boston); Shoes On, Shoes Off (Brandes Department of Theater Arts); and Romeo & Juliet and Evil Dead: the Musical (Arts After Hours); among others. Ms. Freifeld was a Stage Management intern at Merrimack Rep during the 2010-11 season and is delighted to return as a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

BONNIE J. BUTKAS (Executive Director) Bonnie most recently served as the Senior Director of Foundation Relations at Rochester Institute of Technology, where she led the university’s strategic efforts to secure funding from private and family foundations. During her tenure, RIT secured its first significant gifts from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Henry Luce Foundation. Prior to RIT, she was the Director of Development at Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY overseeing five years of unprecedented growth in the company’s contributed income and producing a key role in a successful $10 million capital campaign to renovate the building and grow the theatre’s endowment. In New York City, she served as the Director of External Relations at the York Theatre Company, the Director of Development and Communications at TADA! Youth Theatre, Directing Assistant on The Lion King on Broadway, and the co-founder of Lexington Dance Collective. Prior to NYC, she was the Managing Director of Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, NY. Butkas was raised in the Finger Lakes region of Western New York and holds degrees in Journalism and Dance from the University at Buffalo. She volunteered with the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Genesee Valley, Girl Scouts of Western New York, and the YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County. In Fall 2016, she co-founded Action Together Rochester. She serves on the MCC’s Academic Arts Center Advisory Board, and lives in Westford.

TERRY BERLINER (Interim Artistic Director) For 25 years, Terry has been a freelance director based in New York City. Her work has been seen on Broadway and Off, in regional theatres, and universities across the country. Passionate about new work, and the houses that build it, she is thrilled to join MRT. This past season she wrote and directed a new holiday musical for Vanguard, directed the TDF Gala honoring Graciela Daniele, Reggie Van Lee, and Bob Mackie, directed a developmental reading of Dream, a new musical based on A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and directed the first developmental reading of the new Frank Wildhorn, Rinne Groff and Robin Lerner musical The Song of Bernadette. Terry
Proudly supporting live theatre in the community.

Lowell Five is honored to sponsor the Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Thank you for entertaining, inspiring and providing some of the finest entertainment in the region.

Visit any one of our locations throughout the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire or call 800.931.3483.

WHO’S WHO

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

The Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Sound Designers in this production are represented by United Scenic Artists (USA) Local USA-829, IATSE.

The Merrimack Repertory Theatre is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) celebrates 41 years this season as the Merrimack Valley’s professional theatre. With a steadfast commitment to new plays, MRT annually produces seven works, including several premieres.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Bonnie J. Butkas and Interim Artistic Director Terry Berliner, MRT strives to fulfill its mission “to create remarkable new and contemporary plays that bring joy to our art form while engaging, entertaining and enriching our community.” The non-profit company guarantees that shows are accessible to audiences of all incomes; partners with businesses and other non-profits to fully engage the community; and contributes to the economic vitality of Lowell by attracting diverse audiences from throughout the region.

Recent acclaimed productions include Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, the bestselling production in MRT history (directed by former Artistic Director Sean Daniels); Daniels’ own autobiographical play, The White Chip, which opened in New York in October; I and You (Off-Broadway transfer) and Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson, the most produced playwright in America; Women in Jeopardy! and the world premiere of Slow Food by Wendy MacLeod (both directed by Daniels); KNYUM by Cambodian playwright and actor Vichet Chum; and The Lion, singer-songwriter Benjamin Scheuer’s award-winning musical memoir (also directed by Daniels), which launched its national tour from MRT in August 2015, following critically acclaimed runs in New York and London.
LOCAL CHORUS AUDITIONS FOR
The Lowell Offering
MRT will hold auditions November 16 for a non-singing chorus of community members for the upcoming production of The Lowell Offering by Andy Bayiates and Genevra Gallo-Bayiates. The theatre seeks a total of 24 individuals, who will perform in two 12-person groups. Details at MRT.ORG.

KAREN MACDONALD TO STAR AS ERMA
Critically acclaimed Boston actress Karen MacDonald (Home of the Brave, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? at MRT) will star as America’s favorite, and funniest, mom in Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End from April 22 to May 17, 2020. MRT’s Interim Artistic Director, Terry Berliner, will direct.
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Keefe Center for the Arts, Nashua, NH
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Concord City Auditorium, NH
Oct. 6 | Mar. 8
Durgin Hall, Lowell, MA | Nov. 10

SNH Presents
Keefe Center for the Arts, Nashua, NH
Oct. 19 | Dec. 7 | Dec. 28 | Mar. 8 | May 16
The Dana Center, Manchester, NH | Dec. 8

Tickets: 603-595-9156 or SYMPHONYNH.ORG
DINING GUIDE

Please patronize these restaurants. All of them support MRT through advertising, trade agreements, or fundraisers. Thank you!

50 WARREN LOUNGE
(Lounge & Bar)
978-934-6950 | 50 Warren St.

ATHENIAN CORNER RESTAURANT
(Greek)
978-458-7052 | 207 Market St.

BLUE TALEH
(Thai & Japanese)
978-453-1112 | 15 Kearney Sq.

BREW'D AWAKENING COFFEEHAUS
(Coffee House)
978-454-2739 | 61 Market St.

CAVALEIRO’S
(Portuguese)
978-458-2800, | 573 Lawrence St.

COBBLESTONES
(American)
978-970-2282
91 Dutton St.

MERRIMACK ALES
(Brewery)
978-701-7225 | 92 Bolt St.

MOONSTONES
(Tapas/Raw Bar)
978-256-7777
85 Chelmsford St.
Chelmsford, MA

OLYMPIA
(Greek)
978-452-8092
453 Market St.

PURPLE CARROT
BREAD CO.
(Cafe, Bakery)
978-455-4188
107 Merrimack St.

RIZZOS ROAST BEEF & PIZZA
(Pizza)
978-770-0664
131 E Merrimack St.

THE KEEP
(American/Bar)
978-455-3666
111 Gorham St

WARP AND WEFT
(American/Bar)
978-455-6537
197 Market St.

Most of downtown Lowell’s great restaurants are a five-minute walk from MRT, so you only need to park once for dinner and a show. See page 53 for more information on parking locations and rates.

TOSS IT UP FOR MRT
AT WARP & WEFT
Support MRT and arts in the community!

Every two months, Warp & Weft offers their wooden ceiling to a local non-profit, where patrons can donate to the non-profit by tossing bills at the ceiling. This time around, donations will go towards MRT. How does it stick? You’ll have to come in to Warp and Weft and give it a try!
D’Youville
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981 Varnum Avenue  Lowell, Massachusetts 01854  (978) 569-1000  www.dyouville.org

A Commitment to Care. ... A Legacy of Compassion. ... This is D’Youville.

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Merrimack Valley Magazine brings you fresh, original stories on local art & music, food & dining, home & garden, design, history, people and more.

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Merrimack Valley magazine

Locally owned and operated since 2006
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If you have any problems during a performance, please ask one of our volunteer ushers to locate the House Manager.

ACCESSIBILITY

Open Captioning
Thanks in part to a grant and guidance from Theatre Development Fund (TDF), we offer open captioning performance during a Sunday matinee for all shows. When booking your seats, mention open captioning in order to secure the best view. Visit www.mrt.org for dates.

Listening Devices
Please reserve our free listening devices through the box office when you make your reservation.

Large-Print Programs
We provide a portion of our programs in large print. See concessions for a free copy.

Wheelchair Seating
Wheelchair space is available by notifying the Box Office when purchasing tickets. A ramp is located to the left of MRT’s main entrance.

COURTESY/CONCESSIONS

Please turn off your cell phones, beeping watches and electronic devices when entering the theatre. Please do not text during the performance.

Refreshments are available before performances and during intermission. Food is not allowed in the theatre. Intermission beverages may be pre-purchased at the concession stand. If you bring a beverage into the theatre, please carry out the trash when you leave. Please refrain from unwrapping cellophane wrappers during the performance. For the comfort of all patrons, please avoid wearing strong perfumes, colognes, and hairsprays.

EMERGENCY CALLS

If you expect an emergency call during a performance, please leave your name and seat location with the House Manager. MRT’s emergency phone number is 978-654-4678, press 9.

FIRE REGULATION

Please take a moment to locate the nearest emergency exit. If the fire alarm sounds, please remain in your seat until the House Manager directs you to the nearest exit. Do not run. Exit the theatre in a calm and orderly manner.

RESTROOMS/LATECOMER POLICIES

If at any time you leave your seat during the performance, the House Manager will seat you in the rear balcony when you return.

No one will be admitted once the performance begins. The House Manager will seat you in the rear balcony until intermission, at which time you may take your ticketed seat.

Restrooms are located in Lowell Memorial Auditorium (LMA). Follow the signs down the hallway on the left side of the theatre. Please do not go past any barriers or an alarm will sound.

RECORDING/PHOTOGRAPH REGULATIONS

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited during the performance. EXCEPTION: You may take photos of the set before the show. If you post photos on social media, please acknowledge the designers.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

MRT does not cancel performances due to bad weather. If you are concerned about driving in poor weather, contact the Enterprise Bank Box Office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Enterprise Bank Box Office/
Nancy L. Donahue Theatre
50 East Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852-1205
Phone: 978-654-4678, press 1
Fax: 978-654-7575 Email: box_office@mrt.org

Enterprise Bank Box Office Hours
Tuesday – Saturday: 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Open through curtain on performance nights.
Sunday: 12:00 pm through curtain on performance nights.
Closed on non-performance nights.

Order online: mrt.org
Subscriber ticket exchange by email: box_office@mrt.org

Administrative Offices/Mailing Address
132 Warren Street
Lowell, MA 01852-2208
Phone: 978-654-7550
Fax: 978-654-7575 Email: info@mrt.org

PARKING

FREE PARKING FOR SUBSCRIBERS AND PRODUCERS CIRCLE MEMBERS ONLY

• Davidson Lot: 1-199 Davidson Street, Lowell
Free parking for Subscribers and Producers Circle members only.

• Church Lot: 144 East Merrimack St. Lowell
The Immaculate Conception Church generously offers parking for free to MRT patrons when not in use by Lowell Memorial Auditorium (LMA). When in use by LMA, you must pay a fee to park. Visit lowellauditorium.com for LMA’s schedule.

• Garage Parking
Garage parking is available for $5 with validation provided at MRT Concession Stand at:
- Lower Locks Parking Garage: 90 Warren St. Lowell
- John St. Parking Garage: 75 John St. Lowell

• Street Parking
Street parking for evening and weekend performances is available first-come, first-served. MRT is not responsible for parking tickets or tows.
BREW'D AWAKENING
COFFEEHAUS
LOWELL, MA

COFFEE TEA ESPRESSO
COCKTAILS BEER & WINE

&

SO MUCH MORE

OPEN EVERY DAY UNTIL 9PM

Congrats to another MRT Season!

61 MARKET ST DOWNTOWNLOWELL