

*The Springer cordially invites you to attend*



# The Cake

*A play by Bekah Brunstetter*

*April 26-30, 2023*  
*springeroperahouse.org*



*It's Showtime!*  
**SPRINGER  
2022/2023  
SEASON**

# The Cake

Directed by Rebecca Gossett

Scenic Designer ..... Matthew Swindell  
 Lighting Designer ..... Katie Underwood  
 Costume Designer ..... Alex Allison  
 Properties Designer.....Patti Fenzel  
 Properties Assistant ..... MH Harrison  
 Sound Designer .....Julianne Slaton  
 Technical Director ..... Walter Pigford  
 Assistant Technical Director..... David Jones  
 Stage Manager .....Anna Brooks  
 Production Stage Manager..... Jess Adams  
 Assistant Costume Shop Manager..... Mollie Lipkowitz  
 Production Technician..... Scottie Scott  
 House Manager ..... Machell Dooley  
 Assistant Stage Manager..... Lailah Brewer  
 Assistant Stage Manager..... Jacob Johnson  
 Assistant Director ..... Lauren Alexandra  
 Intimacy Director .....Julia Moriarty

*"The Cake," by Bekah Brunstetter, is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. Originally produced in New York City by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director, Barry Grove, Executive Producer on February 12, 2019. THE CAKE was originally produced by The Echo Theater Company, Los Angeles, California Chris Fields, Artistic Director Jesse Cannady, Producing Director. THE CAKE received a developmental reading at The Alley Theatre, Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director / Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director. THE CAKE was developed at The Ojai Playwrights Conference, Robert Egan, Artistic Director/Producer.*

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# THE CAST



**Isabella Minter  
as Jen**



**Bonner Church  
as Della**



**Jordan Battle  
as Macy**



**Richard Daniel  
as Tim**

**Scan for  
full Playbill**



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to Della's Sweets. Take a deep breath. Let that sweet, familiar smell take you back to that cake shop of your childhood where you were eye level with the cupcakes and the pastries and everything was gooey, delicious, and always exactly the same. Now strap in, because at the end of this show, it is my hope that none of us will be exactly the same.

In this story, we are reminded that life - like that yummy strawberry shortcake in front of you - is made of many layers. It has its sweetness, and its bitter moments. It's whipped fluffy parts. And it's sticky crumbs. But like that cake, it is up to us to mix the ingredients of our experiences and bake something beautiful. Do we follow every direction of the recipe we're given? Or do we risk the whole thing falling apart if we add in what feels right to us?

Through Della, we get to ask ourselves those questions. We witness the power of human connection and the beauty of stepping outside of our comfort zones to push ourselves closer to real happiness, to the ones we love, and our honest, unabridged selves. As you meet Della, Macy, Jen, and Tim you may find pieces of yourself within some of these characters. You may also find those with whom you disagree. But I ask that you meet them all where they are. Be with them as they grow and join me in hoping for the growth that comes for all of us after.

With love and gratitude,

*Rebecca Gossett*

# CAST BIOS

**ISABELLA MINTER (Jen)** is thrilled to be working on *The Cake!* She is an Atlanta-based actor where you may have seen her in *Circle, Mirror, Transformation, The Credeaux Canvas* or most recently in *Oh, To Be Pure Again* at Actor's Express. Or, you may have seen her cameo at The Springer, Assistant Stage Managing for *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, SPAMALOT*, or Stage Managing *Little Shop of Horrors* this past October. She would love to thank her family, friends, partner and agent. Their support is icing on the cake. Enjoy the show!

**JORDAN BATTLE (Macy)** is an Atlanta native and 2020 graduate of Columbus State University where she received a BFA in Theatre Performance. Most recently, Jordan was seen as Mary Bell Harmon at Adaire Theatre. Theatrically, Jordan has had the chance to play roles such as Gail (*Akeelah and the Bee*), Agnes (*She Kills Monsters*), and Mrs. Dickson (*Intimate Apparel*) to name a few favorites. Jordan also had the chance to direct an adaptation of *For Colored Girls...* during her time at CSU. Jordan is ecstatic to return to the stage, and could not imagine a better place to do it! She sends her love and many thanks to her family and friends for their continued support no matter the distance.

**BONNER CHURCH (Della)** is thrilled to make her debut with the Springer Opera House. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Shenandoah University, and a Masters of Music from Oklahoma City University, having studied with the infamous Florence Birdwell. A few of her favorite roles include Martha (*White Christmas*), Rosie (*Mamma Mia*), Miss Shields (*A Christmas Story*), Mavis (*Church Basement Ladies*) & Louise (*Holiday Inn*). She is also a choreographer, director and cat mom. [www.bonnerchurch.com](http://www.bonnerchurch.com)

**RICHARD DANIEL (Tim)** previously appeared as Judge Turpin in Springer's *Sweeney Todd*. He grew up in Clarksville TN, where he attended Austin Peay State University, earning a BS in Music Education and an MA in Speech, Communication and Theatre. He was honored to receive the Department of Theatre and Dance 's 2021-2022 Distinguished Alumni Award. Other credits in include: *Da, Once* (APEX National Tour); *Franklin, 1776* (Cortland Repertory Theatre); *Potter, A Wonderful Life* (Chaffin's Barn); *Lazar Wolf, Fiddler on the Roof* (Studio TENN); *Grimsby, The Little Mermaid* (Nashville Children's Theatre); and *Burl or Stanley* in many productions of *Smoke on the Mountain* in many places.

## MUSIC from

# The Cake

A curated playlist of music from  
and inspired by *THE CAKE*

*She Keeps Me Warm*  
Mary Lambert\*

*I Don't Wanna Be A Loser*  
Lesley Gore\*

*Give Me One Reason*  
Tracy Chapman\*

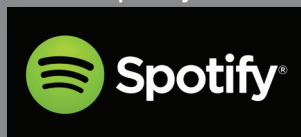
*You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*  
Dusty Springfield\*

*Misty*  
Lesley Gore\*

*Right On Time*  
Brandi Carlile\*

*No One Dies From Love (Stripped in France)*  
Tove Lo\*

Click the Spotify logo to listen to these songs and  
others inspired by *The Cake*



\*These songs are included in the production  
of *THE CAKE*.



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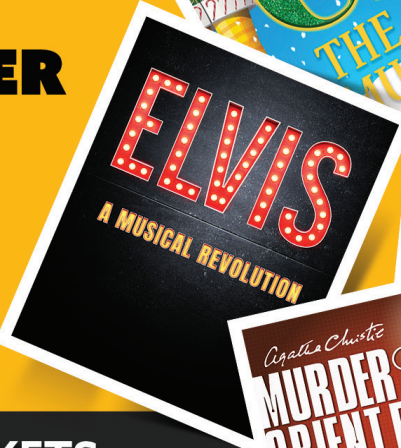
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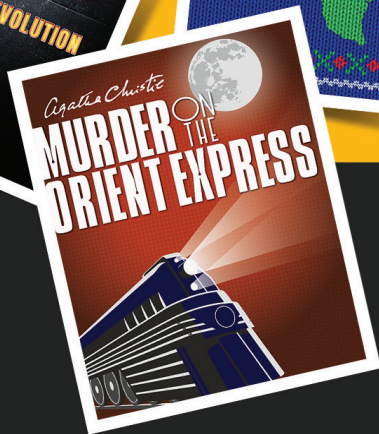


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## 2023/24 SEASON



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# PRODUCTION BIOS

**REBECCA GOSSETT (Director)** received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology from Columbus State University in 2014. She served as the Springer's Production Stage Manager for eight seasons before becoming the Company Manager in 2022. Rebecca focuses on supporting all of the Springer staff including guest artists, technicians, designers, and administrative staff. She enjoys working with so many talented artists of as well as learning more about the rich history of the Springer. She had the great pleasure to direct the 2021 Summer production of *Winnie the Pooh*. In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys all things true crime, trying new restaurants, and beating her boyfriend Trevor at trivia.

**MATTHEW SWINDELL (Scenic Designer)** is the Springer's Director of Production. He graduated from Columbus State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology. He has worked on many Springer productions over the past ten years in a variety of different roles including Director, Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Technical Director, and Road Manager for the Springer's touring company, Springer Theatricals. You may also remember Matthew from his time on stage as Teddy Roosevelt in the Springer's 2017 production of *Newsies*.

**KATIE UNDERWOOD (Lighting Designer)** is a senior member of the Springer artistic staff responsible for casting and contracting production personnel for all mainstage and studio productions. She is also one of several directors on our staff with past credits including *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Great Gatsby*. Katie serves as the primary lighting designer for productions taking place in our McClure Theatre with favorite designs including *Ace: The Eugene Bullard Story*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Mother of Rain*. She is a Springer Theatre Academy alumni and a graduate of CSU with a BFA in theatre design and technology. Katie also completed her MBA from Kennesaw State University.

**ALEX ALLISON (Costume Designer)** has been working as a costume and wig designer across the US. He has worked with notable companies such as the York Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival (BTF), Norwegian Creative Studios and others. He is currently the Resident Costume Designer at the Springer Opera House. Upcoming Productions: *On Cedar Street* (BTF). Theatre Credits include: *Hoagy Carmichael's Stardust Road* (World Premiere)(York Theatre NYC), *Shrek the Musical*, *White Christmas*, *The Bodyguard*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Springer), *Grease* (Temple Theatre). He worked on *Jersey Boys*, *Swing the Musical* and *Warren Carlyle's Havana!* at Norwegian Creative Studios (Wardrobe Supervisor).

**PATTI JO FENZEL (Props Designer)** earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Design and Technology from CSU in 2010 and has worked in theaters around the country including Florida Repertory Theater, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Opera New Jersey.

**JULIANNE SLATON (Sound Designer)** is a graduate of CSU where she earned a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology with a focus on Sound Design and Audio Engineering. She started at the Springer as a volunteer and transitioned to full time work for the 2015 production of *A Chorus Line*. She has since enjoyed working as the Resident Sound Designer and Audio Engineer for almost every Springer production thus far, and looks forward to all of the future productions to come.

**WALTER PIGFORD (Technical Director)** is from Georgia, graduating from Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus (previously known as Armstrong State University) with a BA in theater. After graduating he lived in NYC for 4 years working on the Off-Broadway circuit and working full time as the Assistant Technical Director at Pace University. He has worked at various regional theaters around the country but is glad to be back in his home state bringing theater to the Columbus community.

**DAVID JONES (Assistant Technical Director)** is the Assistant Technical Director for the Springer Opera House. He is a graduate of Columbus State University with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology. This is his third full season at the Springer, beginning as the TD for Springer Theatricals, and transitioning to Master Carpenter. He is the Technical Director for the Children's Theatre Series.

**JESS ADAMS (Production Stage Manager)** earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Columbus State University in 2016. They are the former Production Manager / Production Stage Manager of Majestic Repertory Theatre, an immersive theatre in Las Vegas, NV. Jess leads the Springer's stage management team and serves as the primary stage manager for the Main Stage Series. Previous credits include *The Bodyguard*, *Mother of Rain*, *ACE: The Eugene Bullard Story*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Kudzu: The Musical*, *Jackie & Me*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Springer Opera House); *The Manson Family: an opera*, *Sweeney Todd* (Majestic Repertory Theatre). [jessadamssm.com](mailto:jessadamssm.com)

**MH HARRISON (Properties Assistant)** is a 2019 Graduate of Columbus State University, where they earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Design and Technology and a Minor in Studio Art. MH currently works at the Springer as a Stage Manager, Deck Chief, and resident MH.

WE AT THE SPRINGER WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GREAT RESPECT THAT THE LAND UPON WHICH WE ARE FORTUNATE TO MAKE ART IS THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) PEOPLE, WHO DOMINATED THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THIS CONTINENT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND WHO WERE FOREFULLY REMOVED TO OKLAHOMA BY THE U.S. ARMY IN 1836-37.

Further information about the Muscogee People can be found at [MUSCOGEEANATION.COM](http://MUSCOGEEANATION.COM) or [LOWERMUSCOGEEETRIBE](http://LOWERMUSCOGEEETRIBE).



# PRODUCTION BIOS

**MOLLIE LIPKOWITZ (Assistant Costume Shop Manager)** is a graduate of Vassar College with degrees in Drama and Psychology. Originally from Miami Beach, Florida, she has worked in theaters around the country including the Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Glimmerglass Festival, and Portland Stage Company in both costume shop roles and backstage wardrobe positions. She is grateful to do work that she loves, and to love her work.

**SCOTTIE SCOTT (Production Technician)** graduated with their Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Motevallo in 2019. During their time there, they focused in technical theatre where they developed a passion for it. They became particularly fond of work with stagecraft and lighting. Scottie has worked with the IATSE Local 78 crew since 2017 as well as volunteered with the Red Mountain Theatre Company out of Birmingham. Scottie hopes to eventually go to graduate school for technical direction and one day instruct undergrad students on the technical aspects of theatre in a similar fashion as they were instructed as an undergrad.

**MACHELL DOOLEY (House Manager)** has been working with the Springer for 3 years. She has been a volunteer since she was 14 years old, starting with The Medical Center as a candy stripper. She has also volunteered at a nursing home, as PTA Secretary & Room Mom for her children throughout elementary school and Team Mom on their sports teams. She is currently the Secretary for Chattahoochee Valley Pride for 6 years now. Machell has now taken on the position of Community Engagement Coordinator, where her volunteer experience can be best utilized.

**ANNA BROOKS (Stage Manager)** earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Columbus State University in 2019. She has been an assistant stage manager for many Springer shows and is excited that this production is her first as stage manager. Her previous credits include *ACE: The Eugene Bullard Story*, *Grease*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Beauty and the Beast* at the Springer, and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Anna would like to thank Rebecca for being a great mentor and friend.

**TEAGAN KUWANA (Wardrobe Supervisor)** is excited and thankful to be here. This is her first production with the Springer. She has worked on both productions with Norwegian Cruise Lines, Tuacahn Center for the Arts, and several other venues. Some of her favorite productions have been *Six: The Musical*, *Velvet*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. She is so thankful to her husband for supporting her theatre career. She looks forward to working with the Springer more in the future.

**LAILAH BREWER (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a native of Stone Mountain, Georgia and a sophomore at Columbus State University majoring in technical theatre and design. This is their first collegiate show that they assistant stage managed. Some of their previous technical credits at CSU include *Sweat* (2022), *Last Stop on Market Street* (2023), and *Circle Mirror Transformation* (2023). Please enjoy the show!

**JACOB JOHNSON (Assistant Stage Manager)**, from LaGrange, Ga, is a sophomore at Columbus State University pursuing a B.A. in theater with a Dance minor. Previous CSU production credits include *Anne!*(ensemble) and *Dry Land* (Victor). This is his first production at the Springer. He is so thankful for the opportunity to work on this amazing production and hopes you enjoy the show.

**LAUREN ALEXANDRA (Assistant Director)** is senior at Columbus State University, in Columbus Georgia. She is currently in the process of receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre, with a minor in communications. Born and raised in Cobb County, Georgia, she has always had a passion for the performing arts. Her dream has always been to create meaningful art that allows people to feel seen, through both theatre and film. Over the course of her academic career, she has had the opportunity to gain extensive experience in both directing and leadership. She is currently directing a mainstage production of *Dry Land* by Ruby Rae Spiegel at Columbus State. She has been awarded the Riverside Theatre Society Scholarship from CSU and the 2022 Theatre Arts award. She has also served her community through her work with the Columbus State University Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Taskforce and Standing Committee. Lauren hopes to continue to impact her community and society through her passion for creative storytelling, specifically the stories of those within marginalized groups.

**JULIA MORIARTY (Intimacy Director)** completed her Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre at Wayne State University in 2019 and earned a Master of Arts in Theatre Education from Emerson College in 2011. Her additional training includes Theatrical Intimacy with Heartland Intimacy and Design Training. Currently, she is an assistant professor of theatre at Columbus State University as well as a director, scholar, educator, and performer of the theatrical arts. Her education has taken her from the corn fields of Iowa to the urban streets of Moscow, all in the pursuit of art. In addition to being the intimacy director for *The Cake*, Julia will be working as the intimacy choreographer and dramaturg for Columbus State University's production of *The Miser* in April 2023. She will next appear onstage in the Springer Opera's production of *Escape to Margaritaville* next month.

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