



# **姚HEADLINERS**

MAY 5-21, 2023

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— PRESENTS ——

# THE HEADLINERS

#### By JEFFREY NEUMAN

starring

NORRELL MOORE as EVA TANGUAY JEREMY RILL as JULIAN ELTINGE with PAUL JAQUITH as the STAGE MANAGER

MAY 5-21, 2023

Tina Anderson Scenic Design

Linda Morken Costume Design Emily A. Maddox Lighting Design Max Silverman Sound Design

Kia Heafner

Ligature Creative

Stage Manager & Prop Design Key Art

> Music direction by **DAVID NEHLS**

Directed by **NICK SUGAR** 

Videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



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# TIME & PLACE

July and August 1908.

Onstage and off at a series of vaudeville houses, mostly in New York City.

APPROXIMATE RUN TIME IS 90 MINUTES, NO INTERMISSION

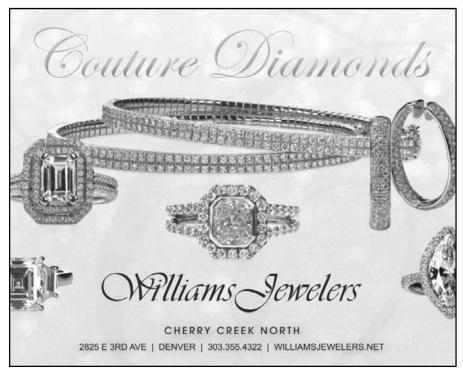
### **HEADLINERS BAND**

**DAVID NEHLS** PIANO

**EMILY LEWIS** VIOLIN

**DAVID SHORT** CELLO

ZAC MILLER PRODUCTIONS PIANO RECORDINGS



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### DRAG IS NOT A CRIME!

When Jeff Neuman asked me to read his play about a pair of real-life vaudeville performers, I said of course! Once I sat down to read his play, I was hooked (cue giant vaudeville hook).

What initially stood out to me is I wasn't thinking that it was a period piece—I saw how relevant this conversation is and that this story could very well be happening today. The characters of Eva and Julian give us an insightful look at what it means to be a gender-bending illusionist as they dance the fine line between performing and humanity. Their struggle and journey is all too real as they search for their

authentic selves in an unaccepting society. They did this without some of the freedoms that we are unfortunately still fighting for today.

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The fact is Eva and Julian broke ground and held space over 100 years ago for what has become the drag generation of today.

Let's continue to celebrate our diversities and our journeys. Drag is not a crime!

NICK SUGAR DIRECTOR

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\*As of April 2022.

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# FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

THERE WAS A TIME that not a single person in this country didn't know the names Eva Tanguay and Julian Eltinge. Sadly, these two remarkable and revolutionary celebrities have all but disappeared from the annals of pop culture.

Writing The Headliners was more than just a reclamation project, though. As I fleshed out the characters of Eva and Julian in order to dramatically imagine their one joint stage act — a publicity stunt, during which they announced their "betrothal" - I discovered a story of two complex people caught in the crossfire of societal expectations about gender roles.

Today, we live in a world that seems worlds away from New York in the early 1900s. As we continue to see the suppression of LGBTQ expression, the weaponization of sexuality, and a continued debate about gender fluidity, though, I realize we may not be too far removed from it after all. We may even be backsliding. I do hope you'll enjoy this story about two of the greatest entertainers of the early 20th century; but, I also hope this play makes you want to actively engage in the conversations we so desperately need to have in the here and now.

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I'd like to thank the generous and talented production and administrative teams here at Cherry Creek Theatre, who helped to finally realize this play after its fouryear development journey. I'd also like to dedicate this production to the memory of Doug Langworthy, without whom the play would never have been written.

> JEFFREY NEUMAN **PLAYWRIGHT**



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# MORE TO EXPLORE

#### "WE'RE ALL BORN NAKED, THE REST IS DRAG." — RUPAUL

Drag performances have existed for millennia, but the modern version we know today emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries during vaudeville shows. Vaudeville was a wildly popular form of entertainment in America, featuring comedians, musicians, acrobats, dancers, and, of course, drag artists.



» Scan the QR Code with the camera app on your phone to learn more about the lives of Julian Eltinge and Eva Tanguay, and their contributions to modern drag.

Pictured: The Fascinating Widow, starring Julian Eltinge, opened on Broadway at the Liberty Theatre on September 11, 1911.



# MEET THE ARTISTS



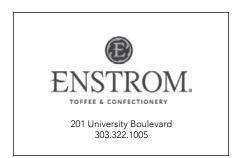
**PAUL JAQUITH** STAGE MANAGER

Paul (he/him) is overjoyed to be working on his first production with Cherry Creek Theatre and this amazing artistic team. Most recently, Paul was seen in Give 5 Productions' Footloose at the PACE Center and the World Premiere of The Best Day of Your Life at Vintage Theatre. You may have seen Paul act around the Colorado area in the Regional Premiere of Avenue Q at Vintage Theatre, The Shape of Things at Silhouette Theatre, and A Lie of the Mind at The Bug Theatre. Paul has directed several shows around the Colorado area, including the Denver premieres of The Baby Dance by Jane Anderson and Grace by Craig Wright, both at Silhouette Theatre. He also directed the hit production of The Normal Heart at Vintage Theatre several years ago. Paul has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Furman University in South Carolina. Paul thanks Johanna, Chase, Perrin, and Jamie for their endless love, support, and refueling of his soul; "I couldn't do this without you!"



NORRELL MOORE
EVA TANGUAY

Norrell (she/her) is elated to be a part of this project. She was last seen at the Miner's Alley Playhouse as Pippi in The Great American Trailer Park Musical. Favorite credits include portraying Patsy in Always... Patsy Cline (BDT Stage), Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Aurora Fox); Legally Blonde (Arvada Center); Shrek the Musical and Sisters of Swing (BDT Stage); Hair (Town Hall Arts Center); Cabaret (Ignite Theatre). BFA Acting from Marymount Manhattan College/AEA member/ IG @norrellmoore





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**JEREMY RILL** JULIAN ELTINGE

Jeremy Rill (he/him) is excited to return to Cherry Creek Theatre after last being seen in My Way. Other CCT credits include: Carl-Magnus in A Little Night Music (Henry Nomination), Cole Porter in Red Hot & Cole, and Young Man in The Last Romance. Selected regional credits include: Billy Bigelow in Carousel, Archibald Craven in The Secret Garden, Cinderella's Prince/Wolf in Into the Woods, Frankie in Forever Plaid, Tommy Albright in Brigadoon, Younger Brother in Ragtime, Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls, and Rochester in Jane Eyre (Performance Now), Reverend Shaw in Footloose (Parker Arts), Sunday in the Park with George and Jesus Christ Superstar (Arvada Center), Passion (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), the American premiere of Jerry Springer the Opera (Joseph Jefferson Award), and Dennis DeYoung's Hunchback of Notre Dame. jeremyrill.com.

#### **JEFFREY NEUMAN** PI AYWRIGHT

Jeffrey (he/him) is an award-winning playwright whose work has been performed at theaters and festivals across the U.S., Australia and the U.K. His plays have been produced and/or developed by Denver Center Theatre Company, The Catamounts, Emerging Artists Theatre Company, LaMaMa Experimental Theatre Club, National Public Radio, Edinburgh Fringe, FUSION Theatre Company, and the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival,

among many others. His last play, What You Will, received a world premiere in Denver in 2018, where it was warmly received with a four-star review from The Denver Post, a Marlowe Award for "Best New Play," and a Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Award nomination for "Best Original New Work." In addition to his work as a playwright, Jeffrey has served as a dramaturg for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Athena Project Festival, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. He has presented professional papers on various topics in musical theater history for the Association for Theater in Higher Education, the American Alliance of Theatre Education, and the American Music Research Center. In 2009, his original research was acknowledged in and used as source material for the book Kander and Ebb, an installment in the Yale University Press Broadway Masters series. Jeffrey is a Heideman Award Finalist, cofounder of Colorado's Rough Draught Playwrights, an inaugural fellow in the 2019-20 Denver Center for the Performing Arts Playwrights' Group, Creative Director for the esteemed Pen & Podium Literary Series, and Colorado's Regional Ambassador for the Dramatists Guild of America. He was also a founding member of Benchmark Theatre, where he received two True West Awards for his "tireless commitment to community-building." theaterbyjeff.com.

#### **NICK SUGAR**

DIRECTOR

Nick (he/him) has served as a director, choreographer, instructor and performer in the Denver area for over 20 years. He is thrilled to join The Headliners team with Cherry Creek Theatre! His professional career spans over 200 productions.

Nick served as the Artistic Director for Theater on Broadway for seven years and served on the board of directors for the Colorado Theater Guild and Town Hall Arts Center. Nick is also a teaching artist at Denver School of the Arts. He has taught at the Denver Center, University of Northern Colorado and Denver University / Lamont School of Music, In 2020, Nick became the most-honored individual in the Colorado Theater Guild history, with 23 individual Henry Award nominations, after receiving three additional nominations for Best Musical, Best Direction and Best Choreography for his most recent production of Cabaret. Over the years he has received several awards which include Best Director, Best Choreographer, Best Actor and Outstanding Production. Some of his favorite award-winning productions include Rent, Hair, Chicago, Hedwig and the

Angry Inch, Rocky Horror Show, The Who's Tommy, Young Frankenstein and Dog Sees God. Thank you to everyone who faced the challenges of producing, performing and seeing live theater these past few years! We will forge through together! NickSugar.com.

# **DAVID NEHLS**MUSIC DIRECTOR

As a composer/lyricist, David (he/him) has supplied music and lyrics for The Great American Trailer Park Musical, Broadway Bares 19 & 20, Broadway Bares Fire Island, I'll Be Home For Christmas, The Watercoolers, Breach, A Midnight Clear, Panto Sleeping Beauty, Panto Mother Goose, It's A Wonderful Life, Killer Wigs From Outer Space, The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical and the new musical Mommie Dearest. His current projects are The Wind, based on the 1928 silent film starring Lillian Gish,



and How The Nurse Feels. As music director, David has led 50 productions at the Arvada Center, winning 9 Henry Awards-4 for Musical Direction and 5 for Best Musical Production of the year. He has also worked regionally at the Denver Center, The Riverside Theatre, The Aurora Fox Theatre, AMT of San Jose, Theatre Aspen, ICA Boston. Theatreworks Hartford. Carousel Dinner Theatre. David is also a member of BMI and is represented by RwB Management. dnehlsmusic.com

#### **TINA ANDERSON**

SCENIC DESIGN

Tina Anderson (she/her) is originally from Boulder. Her most recent set designs for CCT are A Moon for the Misbegotten, Peter and the Starcatcher, Ann, Steel Magnolias, Tenderly, My Way and A Little Night Music. Other designs include, for BETC, are Eden Prairie, Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson #2B, The Royale, Fourteen Funerals, Tiny Beautiful Things and Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time and Hurricane Diane for TRTC in Carbondale. Tina is truly grateful for all the design opportunities.

#### LINDA MORKEN

COSTUME DESIGN

Tenderly at CCT. Linda (she/her) has designed and worked on many regional as well as national productions, several that have won awards including three Colorado Theatre Guild Henry awards, two Denver Post Ovation awards for continued excellence in costume design. Best of Boulder. Marlow Awards as well as multiple award nominations. A long time Colorado resident, Linda is originally from Minnesota and holds a bachelor's degree in design from North Dakota State University.



#### **EMILY A. MADDOX**

LIGHTING DESIGN

Emily (she/her) attended the University of Oklahoma where she received her BFA in Drama in 2014. She has had the privilege of working in 51 different theatres and performance spaces throughout Colorado. Her most recent designs include The Belle of Amherst (Clover & Bee), Chicago (Actors Academy for The Performing Arts), A Moon For The Misbegotten (CCT), Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly, Pride and Prejudice (Firehouse Theater Company), HeLa (Community College of Aurora), The Royale (BETC) The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes (Chadron State College), As One, The Three Feathers, Company, & La Boheme (Opera Steamboat), The Piano Teacher, The Drowsy Chaperone, & Annie Jr. (Vintage Theatre), Vox Vergere (Phamaly Theatre Company), Puerto Rican Nocturne (The Bug Theatre). In addition to lighting design, Emily also works as the Master Electrician for Town Hall Arts Center in Littleton and Vintage Theatre in Aurora.

#### MAX SILVERMAN SOUND DESIGN

Max Silverman (he/him) is a composer

and sound designer. CCT: Moon for the Misbegotten; Peter and the Starcatcher; Ann; Steel Magnolias (Henry Award Nomination); Same Time, Next Year. Colorado: Arvada Center, Curious Theatre Co., Creede Repertory Theatre, The Catamounts, Local Theater Co., Theatre Or. NYC: Atlantic Theatre Company, MCC Theatre, Theatre For a New Audience, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Heartbeat Opera, Epic Players, Actionplay, MRT, Inproximity Theatre, New York Deaf Theatre, 5th Floor Theatre, Encores! Off- Center, Columbia University,

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and Juilliard. International: Hoodoo Immersive, Berlin and CLB Berlin. Regional: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Trinity Rep., Hartford Stage, Cara Mía Theatre, Quintessence Theatre, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Max has written music for podcasts, advertisements and short films. max-silverman.com

#### **KIA HEAFNER**

#### STAGE MANAGER/PROP DESIGN

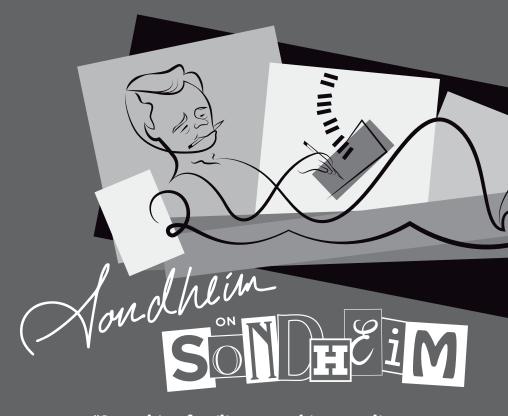
Kia Heafner (she/her) is excited to return to Cherry Creek Theatre after being the stage manager for Ann and Peter and the Starcatcher. She earned a BFA theatre technology and design degree from MSU Denver. Previous stage management work includes Chicago and Polaroid Stories (MSU Denver) and Vox Vergere (Phamaly). Kia is also the production manager at Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids where she recently stage managed for Lion King Jr. She would like to thank her family, friends, and fiancé for their support.

#### SUSIE SNODGRASS

ARTISTIC PRODUCER, CCT

As artistic producer, Susie (she/her) is thrilled about the 2023 season and hopes to continue the amazing growth of Cherry Creek Theatre with quality, professional shows that represent thought-provoking content and relatable characters. She feels incredibly fortunate to have the chance to make a difference in the Denver theatre community by leading with compassion, professionalism and out-of-the-box thinking. She is able to wake up daily and truly say she loves what she does. Lastly, a huge, loving thank you to her family — Ross, Milo and Arlo — for their patience when Mom gets a bit batty and for their encouragement when Mom is trying to fly. Susie is a proud member of Actors' Equity since 1998.





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Conceived and Originally Directed by JAMES LAPINE

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Music directed by ROB LOWE

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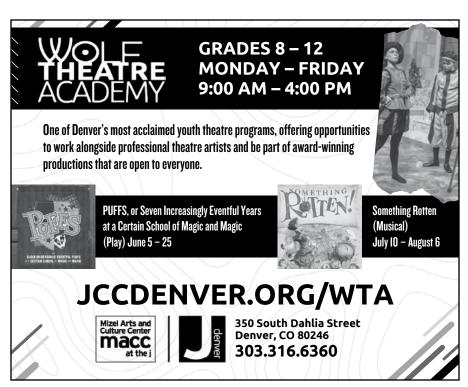
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(April 1, 2022-April 19, 2023)



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