# **UAB Department of Theatre 2022-2023 Season**

Dedicated to our dear friend and colleague, Marlene Johnson

## A NEW BRAIN

Music & lyrics by William Finn & book by Finn & James Lapine
Directed by Cooper Ellis & Roy Lightner
Musical Direction by Carolyn Violi
October 12-15 at 7:30pm
October 16 at 2:00pm
The Sirote Theatre

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

By Kate Hamill
Directed by Santiago Sosa
November 9-12, 16-18 @ 7:30pm; November 19 @ 2pm
The Odess Theatre

## ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

By Tom Stoppard
Directed by Dennis McLernon
February 22-25 @ 7:30pm; February 26 @ 2pm
The Sirote Theatre

## **SANCTUARY CITY**

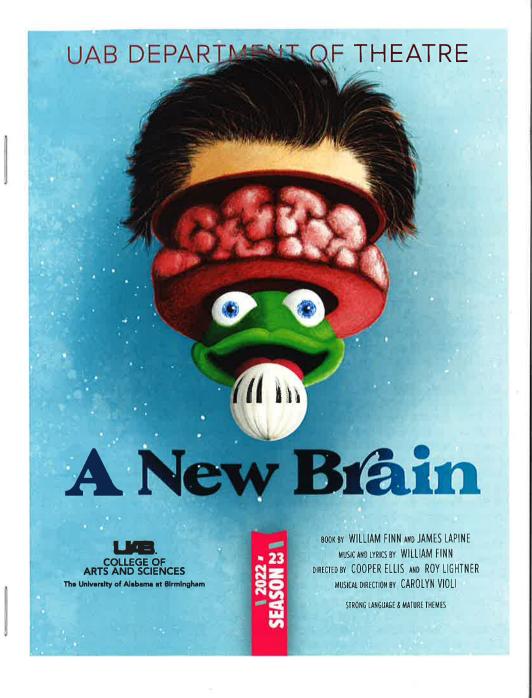
By Martyna Majok Directed by Bailey Dumlao March 6-10 @ 7:30pm The Odess Theatre

## INTO THE WOODS

Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim & book by James Lapine
Directed by Valerie Accetta
Musical Direction by Carolyn Violi
April 12-15 @ 7:30pm; April 16 @ 2pm
The Sirote Theatre

ASC Box Office: 975-ARTS my.alysstephens.org/events

Show information at https://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/on-stage/2022-2023-season



Presented by:

Frank and Joan Dawson • Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman Dr. Marisa Marques • Dorinda Smith • Dr. Charles Turnbough, Jr.

# **OVATION THEATRE UAB**

Opening nights at Theatre UAB are OVATION nights. OVATION UAB features conversation with the director and designers before the show, as well season tickets.

OVATION's mission is to support and sponsor our students. Membership dues ranging from \$50 - \$1500+ help off-set the cost of tuition for participation in productions, as well as many other programs that enhance their theatre training at UAB.

Join us! OVATION THEATRE UAB is a perfect way to assist our talented students and have lots of fun!

You can join OVATION THEATRE UAB through our website at https://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/alumni/give.

Questions? Contact Program Manager, Mel Christian at 934-3237 or cmel@uab.edu. We'd love to see you at our next OVATION!

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT OVATION UAB MEMBERS

## Founding Members

Russell Drummond, Col. Daniel D. Hall, Patty McDonald, Carol Odess, Chandler S. Smith, Jane Paris Smith, BBS Martha Moore Sykes Fund

## 2022-2023 Members

John & Susan Atwood, Peter & Miriam Bellis, Dr. Peter & Anne Burrows, William & Mary Ellen Capps, Peggy Carlisle, Betsy & Joe Cooper, Celeste David, Don & Kathy Davis, Frank & Joan Dawson, Mark Duren, Mike & Mary Elvir, Ben & Ellen Erdreich, Mary Jane & Ray Faircloth, John R. & Linda Frawley, Dr. & Mrs. Frank Franklin, Jr., Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Barbara Glaze, Virginia & Boyce Guthrie, Dr. Ward & Mrs. Martha Haarbauer, Dr. and Mrs. Tracy P. Hamilton, Dr. Shuko Harada, Rona Harper, The Hendrickson Family, A.J. & Kristi Jones, Dr. Marisa Marques, Allen & Cele Montgomery, Patrick & Mary Morrissey, James & Angela Owen, Beverly & David Radford, Robert Raiford & Zane Rhodes, Dr. Bates Redwine & Dan Reese-Redwine, John & Deborah Sellers, Arnold & Fran Singer, Dorinda Smith, Phil & Beverly Stine, Dr. Charles Turnbough, Jr., Nancy Whitt



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

# Theatre UAB Faculty and Administrative Staff

Kelly Dean Allison, Professor	
Valerie Accetta, Associate Professor.  Jack Cannon, Assistant Professor.  Ward Haarbauer Cheryl Hall, Assistant Professor.  Karma Ibsen.  Karla Koskinen, Professor.  Roy Lightner, Associate Professor.  Dennis McLernon, Professor.  Amy Page, Assistant Professor.  Kimberly Schnormeier, Associate Professor.  Lee Shackleford, Associate Professor.  Santiago Sosa, Assistant Professor.  Alan E. Schwanke, Assistant Professor.  Carolyn Violi.  Vessela Warner, Professor.  Will York.  Ed Zuckerman, Associate Professor.	Head of Musical Theatre Performance
Adjunct Faculty Carlon Alexandra Bethe Ensey Anna Foshee Mary Margaret Scalici	Intro To TheatreJazz
Mel ChristianJames Willis	Program Manager/Tour CoordinatorAdministrative Associate

The Department of Theatre is committed in word and deed to creating a safe environment for learning that is free of injustice in all forms.

UAB Department of Theatre is a proud member of...



The Kennedy Center

AMERICAN

COLLEGE

THEATER

FESTIVAL





# A NEW BRAIN

Music & Lyrics by William Finn Book by Finn & James Lapine

Directed by Cooper Ellis & Roy Lightner

Musical Direction Carolyn Violi

Stage Manager Bailey Dumlao

Scenic Design Cliff Simon

Costume Design Anna Medders

Lighting Design Kelly Allison

Audio Engineer Jay Tumminello

Properties Design Jim Luther

Opening Night: Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7:30pm The Sirote Theatre in the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center

A New Brain will be performed without an intermission.

This production contains strong language and mature themes.

A New Brain is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

# Gordon Michael Schwinn......Troy Serena

	Sadie Farmer
Rhoda	Kara Scullin
Nancy/Waitress	Madeleine Kate Erwin
Mr. Bungee	Travis Settoon
Richard	Jason Torrey
Dr. Jafar Berensteiner	Ryan Charest
The Minister	Terrell Miller
Roger Delli-Bovi	Jalen Kirkman
Mimi Schwinn	Abigail Coats
LINDED	
	STUDIES
Homeless Woman/Rhoda	Cara Parisi
Dr. Jafar/Minister/Bungee	Matthew Piper
Mimi/Nancy/Waitress	Devin Towery
Gordon/Roger/Richard	Peyton Griffin
ODCH	
	ESTRA
Conductor/Keyboard	Carolyn Violi Katie Holmes
Keyboard	Katie Holmes
Reeds	Kim Bain, Matt Barron
French Horn	Kevin Kozak
Cello	Patty Pilon
Bass	Abraham Becker
Drums	Joe Cooley

A New Brain includes music and lyrics by William Finn and a book by both William Finn and James Lapine. Originally premiering Off-Broadway in 1998, A New Brain has captivated its audiences with laughter, heart, and a pulsing soul. Based off of the true story of William Finn himself suffering a fatal diagnosis, Finn finds the beauty in the darkest of situations. This work is inspired and crafted off of some of the characters Finn met while in the hospital, and examines the details of the human experience, as messy as it may be. A New Brain is the voice inside our heads that tells us we aren't good enough, that makes us choose work over love, and forces us to look inward when everything around us stops. A New Brain is a glimpse of life giving us a second chance. A New Brain is the opportunity for a new beginning.

Our production utilizes 10 UAB actors to produce a fast-paced, completely sung through exploration of our main character, Gordo, a composer currently working for a children's TV program who has found himself stuck in a rut with his creativity. Gordo collapses at lunch with his agent, Rhoda, and receives a medical diagnosis that turns his world upside down in an instant. This allows him to evaluate who he wants to be and teaches him how to wrestle with inner demons in the face of death. When we are on the brink of life, how do we choose to spend our time? In the end, are we the sum of our work, relationships, or experiences? How do we handle ourselves after mass amounts of change? These are the questions A New Brain explores in a multitude of ways.

Our cast, crew, and creatives in the UAB Department of Theatre have been harnessing their passions and pouring their everything into this complex work. We have aimed to create a safe, inclusive environment for students to explore their greatest potential. We are so pleased to kick off our 2022-2023 season with A New Brain. Let the music play on.

- Cooper Ellis, Co-Director

## A NEW BRAIN SONG LIST

Prologue	Gordon
Specials	
911 Emergency	
Heart and Music.	
Mother's Gonna Make Things Fine	
Be Polite	•
Sailing	2
Family History	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Gordo's Law of Genetics	
And They're Off	•
Roger ArrivesHon	
Just Go	
Poor, Unsuccessful, and Fat Intro	Richard, Roger, Minister, Gordon
Poor, Unsuccessful, and Fat	Richard, Mr. Bungee, Gordon
M. R. I. Day	Nancy
Sitting Becalmed in the Lee of Cutty Hunk	Ensemble
Craniotomy	Doctor, Nancy, Gordon, Minister
An Invitation to Sleep in My Arms	Gordon, Roger, Rhoda, Mimi
Change	Homeless Lady
Yes	Gordon, Mr. Bungee, Ensemble
In the Middle of the Room	Gordon, Mimi, Richard
Throw It Out	
In the Middle of the Room Reprise	
A Really Lousy Day in the Universe	
Brain Dead	
Whenever I Dream	
Eating Myself Up Alive	
The Music Still Plays On	-
Don't Give In	
You Boys are Gonna Get me in Such Troubl	
On the Street.	, , ,
Time	
Time and Music	, 8
I Feel So Much Spring	
1 1 cer do Much opting	

# With special thanks to Dr. Patrick Evans

Dr. Patrick Evans DeJohn Tellis-Oliver Red Mountain Theatre

# **UAB Department of Theatre Production Staff**

	Production Manager/Technical Director	
Staff for this Production		
	Assistant Stage Managers	

Visit our website at http://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/

# A New Brain Production Biographies

Kelly Allison (he/him/his) - Lighting Design

Home Town: Litchfield, MN

Education: BFA-Stephens College, MFA-University of Minnesota.

Recent Production Work: Lighting Design: Godspell, The Glass Menagerie, Savage, Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches, A Little Night Music, Spring Awakening, Buried Child, Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird, Avenue Q, Urinetown: The Musical, Big Love (UAB), Scenic Design: Silent Sky (UAB).

Ryan Charest (he/him/his) - Dr. Jafar Berensteiner

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Tampa, FL

Education: Tampa Preparatory School

Recent Production Work: Performance: 2022 Broadway Bros! Tour, Godspell, Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical (UAB), Assistant Music Director: Godspell, The SpongeBob Musical (UAB). 52nd Street Comics (Student Written Show, Samford). Running Crew: The Wolves (UAB).

Abigail Coats (she/her/hers) - Mimi Schwinn

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Florence, AL

Education: Florence Academy of Fine Arts

Recent Production Work: Performance: Survivors (First Table Read, Red Mountain Theatre), The Miracle Worker (Ivy Green 60th Annual Production), The 2022 Heroes vs Villains Tour, Much Ado About Nothing, Disconnect, Clarkston (UAB).

Bailey Dumlao (he/they) - Stage Manager

Home Town: Germantown, TN

Education: BA - University of Alabama at Birmingham

Recent Production Work: Stage Management: Kinky Boots, Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (ASM, Red Mountain Theatre), Godspell, DISCONNECT, The Glass Menagerie (UAB), Footloose, The Addams Family (UAB ArtPlay).

Directing: Significant Other, Clarkston, The Way You Made Me (UAB). Lighting Design: Into the Woods, Jr. (RMTC), Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, Don't Tell Me I Can't Fly (Birmingham Children's Theatre), The SpongeBob Musical (UAB).

Cooper Ellis (she/her/hers) - Co-Director/Choreographer

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Atlanta, GA

Education: Lambert High School

Recent Production Work: Directing: The 2022 Heroes vs Villains Tour (UAB). Assistant Directing: 2021 Get Animated Tour, Godspell (UAB), Once (Red Mountain Theatre).

Cappy Elvir (she/her/hers) - Assistant Stage Manager

Concentration: BA Performance Home Town: New Orleans, LA

Education: St. Mary's Dominican High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Much Ado About Nothing, The Wolves (UAB), Pizza Party (Tessa Slovis), Dance: New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (Gulf Coast Theatre on Tap).

Madeleine Kate Erwin (she/her/hers) - Nancy/Waitress

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Houston, TX

Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Much Ado About Nothing (UAB), A Chorus Line (Theatre Under the Stars), 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Carrie: The Musical (Wildfish Theatre). Sound Engineer: 2022 Heroes vs Villains Tour, 2021 Contemporary Broadway Touring Company (UAB).

# A New Brain Production Biographies

Sadie Farmer (she/her/hers) - Homeless Lady

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Birmingham, AL

Education: Jefferson County International Baccalaureate (JCIB)

Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Godspell, Hair (UAB). Lizzie (Southern Plains Productions).

Peyton Griffin - U/S Gordon/Roger/Richard

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Ellisville, MS

Education: South Jones High School and Jones College

Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Godspell (UAB),

Grease (South Jones High School), Mamma Mia, Godspell (Jones College).

Jalen Kirkman (he/him/his) - Roger Delli-Bovi

Concentration- BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Florence, AL

Education: Florence High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: Once On This Island, Rodgers &

Hammerstein's Cinderella (Red Mountain Theatre). The 2022 Broadway Bros! Tour, Godspell (UAB). The Last Five Years (Summerstock at the Ritz), Almost Maine, The Music Man, Peter and the Starcatcher (Florence High School).

Roy Lightner (he/him/his) - Co-Director

Home Town: Leawood, KS

Education: MFA - Goddard College; BM - Oklahoma City University Recent Production Work: Director/Choreographer: Godspell, Disconnect, Hair, Savage, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Hairspray, Working (UAB), Roaring 20s, Holiday Spectacular, Once (Red Mountain Theatre), Newsies (New London Barn), Legally Blonde (Lyric Opera Arizona), Lucky to Be Me (NYC Opera, asst. to Peggy Hickey), 2018 MTWichita Festival Producer, Hairspray, Miss Saigon (Sondheim Center), Bring It On (MTKC), Hound of the Baskervilles (Cape Playhouse), Wine Country Speakeasy, Best of Broadway Under the Stars, This Magic Moment, Oh, What a Night! (Transcendence Theatre Company). He is currently the Artistic Director of Red Mountain Theatre.

Jim Luther - Properties Design

Home Town: Honolulu, HI

Education: BFA - University of Hawaii at Manoa

Recent Production Work: Properties Design: Childsplay, Tacoma Actors Guild,

Taproot Theatre Company, Seattle Children's Theatre.

Brandon Marquez (he/him/his) - Assistant Stage Manager

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Mandeville, LA

Education: New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), Mandeville High School Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Significant Other (UAB), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Rivertown Theaters)

Producing: Senior Night Live (NOCCA).

# A New Brain Production Biographies

Rose McClanahan (she/her/hers) - Assistant Musical Director

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Lexington, KY

Education: School for the Creative and Performing Arts at Lafayette High School Recent Production Work: Performance: *The SpongeBob Musical* (UAB), *Into The Woods* (ACTivate Artists), *Grease* (Woodford Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (School for the Creative and Performing Arts).

Anna Medders - Costume Design

Concentration: BA Design/Tech Home Town: West Jefferson, AL Education: Corner High School

Recent Production Work: Costume Design: Noises Off (UAB). Assistant Costume Design: Hair (UAB). Dresser/Running Crew: Savage (UAB). Costume Design: Mary

Poppins: The Musical (CTA).

Terrell Miller (he/him/his) - The Minister

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Birmingham, AL

Education: Jefferson County International Baccalaureate

Recent Production Work: Performance: 2022 Broadway Bros! Tour, The SpongeBob

Musical, Godspell, Disconnect, Hair (UAB).

Hannah Moss (she/her) - Assistant Choreographer

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Pasadena, CA

Education: Marshall Fundamental Secondary School

Recent Production Work: Performance: The 2022 Loving Shakespeare Tour, The SpongeBob Musical, Significant Other (UAB), Chicago, Peter Pan (Marshall

Fundamental).

Cara Parisi (she/her/hers) - U/S Homeless Lady/Rhoda

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre Home Town: Kansas City, MO

Education: Bishop Miege High School

Recent Production Work: Acting: *The SpongeBob Musical* (Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park), *All Shook Up* (Stage Right Performing Arts), *Chess* (Stage Right

Performing Arts).

Matthew Piper (he/him/his) - U/S Dr. Jafar/Minister/Bungee

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Corner AL

Education: Corner High School

Recent Production Work: Directing: Dark Road (Corner Theatre Academy)

Acting: 9 to 5, The Sound of Music (Virginia Samford Theatre), The Very Grey Matter

of Edward Blank (Corner Theatre Academy).

Olivia Scott (she/her) - Musical Director Intern

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre Home Town: Panama City, FL

Education: A. Crawford Mosley High School

Recent Production Work: Directing: Little Shop of Horrors (Mosley High). Crew Chief: The One Act Play that Goes Wrong (Mosley High). Acting: Singin' in the Rain (Mosley High)

(Mosley High).

# A New Brain Production Biographies

Kara Scullin (she/her/hers) - Rhoda

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Education: High School: Saint Ursula Academy

Recent Production Work: Performance: The 2021 Contemporary Broadway Tour, Godspell, The Wolves (UAB), Sleeping Beauty, Emma JV (The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati), Bye Bye Birdie (Cincinnati Landmark Productions).

Troy Serena (he/him) - Gordon Schwinn

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Hometown: Oneonta, AL

Education: Oneonta High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Red Mountain Theatre), 9 to 5 (The Virginia Samford Theatre), The 2022-2023 Broadway Bros! Tour, The SpongeBob Musical, Godspell (UAB), Mamma Mia!, The Little Mermaid (CharACTers Theatrics)

Travis Settoon (he/him/his) - Mr. Bungee

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre Home Town: Ponchatoula, LA Education: Ponchatoula High School

Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Much Ado About

Nothing, Disconnect, Clarkston (UAB).

Cliff Simon – Scenic Design Home Town: New York, NY

Education: MFA, University of Texas at Austin

Recent Production Work: Scenic Design: Tommy, Les Misérables, One Night With Janice Joplin, 33 Variations (Zach Theatre, Austin). Miss Saigon, Grease, Full Monty (Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach). Grease (Walnut Street, Philadelphia), The SpongeBob Musical, Godspell, Savage, Hairspray, A Little Night Music, You Can't Take It With You, Spring Awakening, Buried Child, Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird, Avenue Q, Women of War, Clybourne Park, Urinetown: The Musical, Twelfth Night; or What You Will, Big Love (UAB).

Jason Torrey (he/him) - Richard

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre

Home Town: Eureka, KS

Recent Production Work: Performance: The SpongeBob Musical, Godspell (UAB), Little Shop of Horrors, Mary Poppins (Music Theatre Kansas City).

Devin Towery (She/Her) - U/S Mimi, Nancy

Concentration: BFA Musical Theatre Home Town: New Braunfels, TX

Education: North East School of the Arts

Recent Production Work: Performance: An American in Paris (NESA), Rock of Ages

(NBPA). Dance: Swan Lake (CBSA)

Carolyn Violi (she/her/hers) - Conductor/Musical Director

Home Town: Indiana, PA

Education: BS in Music Education, Certification in Elementary Education Recent Production Work: Broadway: Producer: Hello Dolly/Bette Midler/Tony Award, Betrayal/Tom Hiddleston, Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz. National Tour: Conductor/Musical Director: Disney's Beauty and the Beast National Tour US and Canada (Disney Theatricals).