

uptown  
MUSIC THEATER HIGHLAND PARK



Les  
Misérables

By Arrangement with  
CAMERON MACKINTOSH  
Presents  
A new production of  
BOUBLIL and SCHÖNBERG's

# Les Misérables

A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG  
Lyrics by HERBERT KRETZMER  
Original French Text by ALAIN BOUBLIL and JEAN-MARC NATEL

Additional materials by JAMES FENTON  
Adapted and originally directed by TREVOR NUNN and JOHN CAIRD

Original Orchestrations by JOHN CAMERON  
New Orchestrations by CHRISTOPHER JAHNKE  
STEPHEN METCALFE and STEPHEN BROOKER

Produced by LARRY MASON and JAMIE DAVIDSON  
Directed by SCOTT SHALLENBARGER  
Associate Direction and Choreography by STACEY FLASTER  
Musical Direction and Conducted by AARON KAPLAN  
Assistant Direction by ZAK JACOBS  
Associate Music Direction and Associate Conducted by KEVIN ZHOU

Set Design and Technical  
Direction  
MICHAEL CLACK

Original Costume Design  
CINDY MOON

Lighting Design  
JOEL ZISHUK

Sound Design  
MICHAEL PATRICK

Props Design  
KATIE NOVAK

Stage Management  
CHRIS MORGAN

Assistant Stage Management  
ADAM SHERMAN

Fight and Intimacy Direction  
JESSICA HERSMAN

Marketing, Media and Social  
LARK CREATIVE GROUP

Social Media Management  
SARAH CLEMENT

House Management  
ANNE ZAVELL and  
RYAN ELLIOT

Concessions Management  
ROSA MACHABANSKI

Presented by arrangement with Music Theater International and  
CAMERON MACKINTOSH LTD

## Director's Note

We live in a time of cultural separation; we live in a time where violence and cruel words feel normative. I find myself asking: 'What can I hold on to when such heaviness infiltrates my worldview?' Les Misérables provides answers: The story propels us into a world where its characters experience unbearable hardship and injustice; who make difficult decisions to simply stay alive and even some who sacrifice themselves so that others may be free. It serves as a mirror, reminding us all that the journey of life presents us all--sooner or later--with challenges that can eclipse happiness and joy. And yet, two of Les Misérables' final lyrics are "To love another person is to see the face of God," and "Tomorrow Comes." It looks beyond the eclipse and sees the light: it provides an anthem of hope, staking the claim that loving and empathizing with our fellow travelers--whether strangers or family, foe or friend--is soul medicine for us all.

- Scott Shallenbarger, Director

# The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Jean Valjean.....Wesly Anthony Clergé  
Javert.....David Pfenninger  
Farmer.....Aaron Rumack  
Laborer.....Korey White  
Innkeeper's Wife.....Sophie Smekens  
Innkeeper.....Charlie Mann  
The Bishop of Digne.....Dan Ermel  
Constables.....Jeffrey Charles, Dustin Rothbart  
Factory Foreman.....Aaron Rumack  
Fantine.....Justine Cameron  
Factory Girl.....Allison Rose Macknick  
Old Woman.....Naomi Hershman  
Wigmaker.....Jim Spangler  
Bamatabois.....Dustin Rothbart  
Fauchelevent.....Christopher Finch  
Little Cosette.....Brielle Horwitch/Lanah Vumakes  
Madame Thénardier.....Erin Kelley  
Young Éponine.. Brielle Horwitch/Lanah Vumakes  
Thénardier.....Aaron Mann  
Gavroche.....Bobby Schaeffer/Nathaniel Vodak  
Éponine.....Amia Korman  
Cosette.....Campbell Krausen

## Thénardier's Gang

Montparnasse.....Jim Spangler  
Babet.....Christopher Finch  
Brujon.....Aaron Rumack  
Claquesous.....Brian James

## Students

Enjolras.....Evan Smith  
Marius.....Jake Ziman  
Combeferre.....Charlie Mann  
Feuilly.....Al Katz-Mariani  
Courfeyrac.....Kasey Sliwinski  
Joly.....Justin Katin  
Grantaire.....Jeffrey Charles  
Lesgles.....Griffin Kelly  
Jean Prouvaire.....Dustin Rothbart

Loud Hailer.....Dan Ermel  
Major Domo.....Jim Spangler

Ensemble.....Marci Medwed Barnett,  
Sara Dolins, Joe Grudt, Jeri Hart, Naomi  
Hershman, India Huy, Leah Jacobson, Mad-  
ison Jaffe-Richter, Michael Kirby, Samantha  
Macauley, Ariela Policastro, Sarah Sapperstein,  
Erica Silver, Hannah Mary Simpson, Sophie  
Smekens, Lisa Sobelman, Lindsey Marie Wells  
Swings.....Joe Grudt, Allison Rose Macknick

Dance Captain.....Madison Jaffe-Richter  
Fight Captain.....Hannah Mary Simpson  
Intimacy Captain.....Allison Rose Macknick

## Understudies

For Jean Valjean-Korey White; for Javert-Dan  
Ermel; for Cosette-India Huy; for Fantine-So-  
phie Smekens; for Thénardier-Aaron Rumack;  
for Madame Thenardier-Sarah Sapperstein;  
for Éponine-Madison Jaffe-Richter; for Marius-Jef-  
frey Charles; for Enjolras-Kasey Sliwinski; for  
Bishop of Digne-Christopher Finch

# The Music

## ACT I

### PROLOGUE: 1815, DIGNE

Prologue.....The Company  
"Soliloquy".....Valjean

### 1832, MONTREUIL-SUR-MER

"At the End of the Day".....Unemployed and  
Factory Workers  
"I Dreamed a Dream".....Fantine  
"Lovely Ladies".....Ladies and Clients  
"Who am I?".....Valjean  
"Come to Me".....Fantine and Valjean

### 1832, MONTFERMEIL

"Castle on a Cloud".....Cosette  
"Master of the House".....Thénardier, his Wife  
and Customers  
"Thénardier Waltz".....M. and Mme.  
Thénardier and Valjean

### 1832, PARIS

"Look Down".....Gavroche and the beggars  
"Stars".....Javert  
"Red and Black".....Enjolras, Marius  
and the students  
"Do You Hear the People Sing?".....Enjolras,  
the students and citizens  
"In My Life".....Cosette, Valjean,  
Marius and Éponine  
"A Heart Full of Love".....Cosette, Marius,  
and Éponine  
"One Day More".....The Company

## THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

## ACT II

"On My Own".....Éponine  
"A Little Fall of Rain".....Éponine and Marius  
"Drink with Me".....Grantaire, students  
and women  
"Bring Him Home".....Valjean  
"Dog Eats Dog".....Thénardier  
"Soliloquy".....Javert  
"Turning".....Women  
"Empty Chairs at Empty Tables".....Marius  
"Wedding Chorale".....Guests  
"Beggars at the Feast" ... M. and Mme. Thénardier  
Finale.....The Company



Justine  
Cameron



Wesley Anthony  
Clergé



Erin  
Kelley



Amia  
Korman



Campbell  
Krausen



Aaron  
Mann



David  
Pfenninger



Evan  
Smith



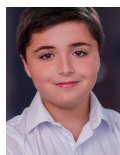
Jake  
Ziman



Brielle  
Horwitch



Bobby  
Schaefer



Nathaniel  
Vodak



Lanah  
Vurnakes



Marci Medwed  
Barnett



Jeffrey  
Charles



Sara  
Dolins



Daniel  
Ermel



Christopher  
Finch



Joe  
Grudt



Jeri  
Hart



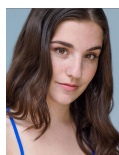
Naomi  
Hershman



India  
Huy



Leah  
Jacobson



Madison  
Jaffe-Richter



Brian  
James



Justin  
Katin



Al  
Katz-Mariani



Griffin  
Kelly



Michael  
Kirby



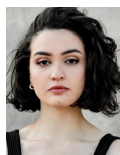
Samantha  
Macauley



Allison Rose  
Macknick



Charlie  
Mann



Ariela  
Policastro



Dustin  
Rothbart



Aaron  
Rumack



Sarah  
Sapperstein



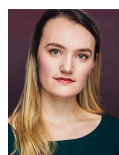
Erica  
Silver



Hannah Mary  
Simpson



Kasey  
Sliwinski



Sophie  
Smekens



Lisa  
Sobelman



James  
Spangler



Lindsey Marie  
Wells



Korey  
White



# The Cast

**JUSTINE CAMERON** (*Fantine*) Select Credits: Katherine in Newsies (Paramount Theatre), Sister Mary Robert in Sister Act (Metropolis PAC), Beth in Merrily We Roll Along (Blank Theatre Company), New Faces Sing Broadway 1956 (Porchlight Music Theatre), Measure for Measure (Powerhouse Theatre & New York Stage and Film). BFA Musical Theater, Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Represented by BMG Talent. Justine proudly hails from the beautiful city of Seattle. For her family... "immensely, intensely, absolutely." @justinekc | [justinecameron.com](http://justinecameron.com)

**WESLY ANTHONY CLERGÉ** (*Jean Valjean*) happily joins the cast of Les Misérables for his Uptown Music Theater of Highland Park debut. Recent theater credits include Ragtime (Highland Park Players); Rent (Porchlight); Children of Eden (Cadillac Palace); Disney's The Little Mermaid (Music Theater Works); New Faces Sing Broadway 1979 (Porchlight); Jeff Award-winning 8-TRACK: The Sound of the '70s (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre); In the Heights (Vision Latino Theatre); Pagliacci (Portland Opera); and many others. Wesly is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent. For more information visit [weslyanthonyclerge.com](http://weslyanthonyclerge.com). @iamweslyanthony.

**ERIN KELLEY** (*Madame Thénardier*) is thrilled to be returning to Les Misérables after being seen as "woman who steals hair" in 2007! A Highland Park resident, favorite roles include Adelaide (Guys and Dolls), Elle (Legally Blonde), Gertrude McFuzz (Seussical) and ComedySportz Chicago Ensemble Member. She'd like to thank the entire production team, crew and cast for making this such a memorable summer. This wouldn't be possible without Tom- thank you for being the best husband and father. Love you Ben and Abby!

**AMIAKORMAN** (*Éponine*) is a newly Chicago-based theater artist and recent graduate with a B.S. in Voice and Musical Theatre from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Favorite credits include Into the Woods (Rapunzel), The Little Mermaid (Ariel), Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman), and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Schwartz). Offstage, Amia can be found writing everything from full-length plays to short stories and original music.

**CAMPBELL KRAUSEN** (*Cosette*) is delighted to be making her Uptown debut! Credits include Another Marriage (Steppenwolf Theatre); The Wizard of Oz (Dorothy - Marriott Theatre); and The Sound of Music (Liesl - Marriott Theatre); she can also be heard in the film Ghostlight which played at Sundance Film Festival and SXSW this

year. Many thanks to the cast, crew, and team at Uptown. Love to family, friends, teachers, Mom and Dad! Repped by the wonderful Stewart Talent! @campbell\_krausen.

**AARON MANN** (*Thénardier*) a Chicago based voiceover and stage actor, has performed as Joe Josephson in Merrily We Roll Along, Sipos in the NE Jeff Award-nominated She Loves Me (2022), and has contributed to national recordings of Sweeney Todd, The Sound of Plaid, and Miss Saigon for Music Theatre International. His favorite roles include Sir Robin in Spamalot and Mr. Mushnik in Little Shop of Horrors. He holds a BFA in Theatre Studies from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**DAVID PFENNINGER** (*Javert*) is honored to be making his Uptown debut while bringing this iconic piece of theatre to the Highland Park community. Chicagoland credits include Sweeney Todd (Sweeney), Into the Woods (Baker), Parade (Leo), Cabaret (Emcee), Forever Plaid (Sparky), Assassins (Booth), Big Fish (Edward), ...Spelling Bee (Barfée), Ragtime (Tateh), and Something Rotten! (Nick Bottom; BroadwayWorld Chicago Award: Best Performer in a Musical). He also performs with the professional chamber choir, Cor Cantiamo. For Christine, his resident Les Mis expert and super-fan.

**EVAN SMITH** (*Enjolras*) is very excited to be making his Uptown debut in Les Misérables! He earned his BFA in Musical Theatre from the Chicago College of Performing Arts, and has been acting professionally in Chicago for the last five years. Recent credits include: David van Patten in American Psycho (Kokandy), Baby (Citadel Theatre), Merrily We Roll Along (Blank Theatre Company), St. Sebastian (Refracted Theatre Co). Regional credits include Creighton Chaney in the world premiere of A Thousand Faces: The Lon Chaney Musical, and Bela Zangler in Crazy For You at the Encore Musical Theatre Company. He would like to thank his Mom, Dad, and brother Ben for their continued love and support. EGALITÉ, LIBERTÉ, FRATERNITÉ.

**JAKE ZIMAN** (*Marius*) Uptown Music Theater Debut! Jake is a Chicago based singer, actor, and voice teacher. Previous credits include Gabe in Next To Normal (Paramount Theatre) as well as productions with Mercury Theatre Chicago, Chicago Children's Theatre, CPA Theatricals, and more. Film: Albany Road - Coming soon! Recent alum of Millikin University. Represented by Stewart Talent. Huge thank you to this entire wonderful team. HP Strong. @jake\_ziman.

# The Cast

**BRIELLE HORWITCH** (*Little Cosette, Young Éponine*) is so happy to be performing in Les Misérables amongst this amazing cast and Production Team. A few of Brielle's experiences include performing at Metropolis in the youth ensemble and understudy for Amaryliss in The Music Man. Performing at Big Noise Theater in Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (children's choir) and the Sound of Music (as Gretl). And singing in the children's choir for the upcoming Hallmark movie starring Mario Lopez.

**BOBBY SCHAEFER** (*Gavroche*) Bobby's love of theatre began in 2nd grade as Michael Banks in Mary Poppins. Now entering 8th grade, he's playing Gavroche in Les Mis. He's grateful for his experiences and excited to continue acting and singing. Favorite roles include Young Simba, Horton, and Ms. Trunchbull. He thanks his castmates and directors for an amazing show, especially Kasey, Nathaniel, and Campbell. Enjoy the show!

**NATHANIEL VODAK** (*Gavroche*) is thrilled to return to Uptown. Previous roles: Beauty & TB (Chip – DFT), Addams Family (Pugsley – Uptown), Seussical (Ensemble –Uptown), Joseph (BNT), School of Rock (Madison –HPP), Matilda (Nigel –HPP), and Into the Woods (Boy–BNT). He is a proud member of Gus Giordano dance company. Nathaniel is grateful to the LM team, teacher Colette Todd, and Mr. David. He would also like to dedicate this whole show and experience to Jayden Perkins, who will forever be remembered for his courageous sacrifice.

**LANAH VURNAKES** (*Little Cosette, Young Éponine*) is thrilled to be making her debut at Uptown Music Theater! Some of Lanah's favorite roles are: Baby June in Gypsy (Brightside Theatre), Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol (Metropolis), Marta in Sound of Music (Big Noise Theatre), Ensemble/Dancer in Hello Dolly (Rising Stars Theatre), Ensemble in Ragtime (Highland Park Players). Lanah wishes to thank her Talent Manager, Randi Rosen, and her agents at DDO. She sends love to her family and friends.

**MARCI MEDWED BARNETT** (*Ensemble*) is honored to be part of this amazing production. She lives in Deerfield with her loving husband, Blaine, and her three wonderful children, Mia, Hayley and Brandon. Favorite roles include Fiona in Shrek, Morales in A Chorus Line, Belle in Beauty and the Beast and Luisa in The Fantastiks, for which she received a Joseph Jefferson Nomination. Marci can be heard singing the role of Marie on the original cast

recording of Madame X.

**JEFFREY CHARLES** (*Constable, Grantaire, u/s Marius*) is thrilled to make his debut with Uptown in the show that first sparked his passion for theater. Jeffrey started performing at 14 years old in Eau Claire, WI after seeing his brother and sister perform in Les Misérables. He worked for years around WI and MN and relocated to Chicago, the beginning of 2023. Chicago credits: The Secret Garden (Jedlicka Performing Arts Center), She Loves Me (Citadel Theatre), and I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Oil Lamp Theater).

**SARA DOLINS** (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be part of this incredible cast of Les Misérables. Sara is a performer, choreographer and dance teacher at multiple studios in the Chicagoland area. Sara was most recently seen as Imelda Thorton/Dr. Johnson in On The Twentieth Century at Blank Theatre as well as multiple productions with Surging Films and Theatrics. Sara is immensely grateful to her family and friends for their continued support!

**DAN ERMEL** (*The Bishop of Digne, Loud Hailer, u/s Javert*) is thrilled to return to the stage after an eight year hiatus. Dan received his BA in Music at Carthage College, where he later received his teaching certification as well. When he isn't playing the piano, Dan loves PC gaming, logic puzzles and escaping from rooms with his wife, Andrea. He would like to thank his family, friends, Sadie and Rey for all of the support and love!

**CHRISTOPHER FINCH** (*Fauchelevant, Babet, u/s The Bishop of Digne*) is excited to be back with Uptown this summer! Most recently, Chris played Lumiere in Deerfield Family Theater's production of Beauty and the Beast. He has also played The Cat in the Hat in Uptown's production of Seussical the Musical, Lord Farquaad in Shrek the Musical, Marcellus Washburne in The Music Man, Pharaoh in Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Nicely-Nicely in Guys and Dolls. Chris and his family are Libertyville residents. He wishes to thank everyone for their love and support this summer!

**JOE GRUDD** (*Ensemble, Swing*) is thrilled to be joining Les Misérables at Uptown! Joe is a 2022 graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a BMA in Lyric Theatre. You may have seen Joe as Sally Slick in Surging Theatrics' A Bronx Tale or as Will Bloom in Deerfield Family Theater's Big Fish. He would like to thank all his family and friends

# The Cast

for supporting him in pursuing acting. He is represented by Lori Lins Ltd.

**JERI HART** (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back onstage with Uptown Music Theater, where she was last seen as a Bird Girl in *Seussical the Musical*. She has performed in numerous Chicago-area musicals, including *Cinderella* (Marie), [title of show] (Heidi), *Hello Dolly!* (Minnie Fay), *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette), and more! By day, Jeri is a 5th grade teacher in Northbrook. Many thanks to the incredible cast and production team!! She hopes everyone enjoys the show, especially Dad!

**NAOMI HERSHMAN** (*Ensemble, Old Woman*) feels most fortunate to perform in this profound and timeless theater event. As an educator in the Highland Park community for her entire career, Naomi is honored to be involved in this Uptown production to support her "second home." With overwhelming gratitude to the entire production dream team, she remains humbled by her incredible fellow performers and musicians. Thank you all~

**INDIA HUY** (*Ensemble, u/s Cosette*) is a recent graduate of American Music and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City and is thrilled to be making her Uptown Music Theater debut! You can catch her on Saturday Night Live every now and then with hosts such as Timothee Chalamet, Keke Palmer, and Pedro Pascal to name a few. *Les Misérables* is the show which catapulted her love for theatre so this truly is a dream come true. Much love to family and friends who never stop the support!

**LEAH JACOBSON** (*Ensemble*) is excited to join this dream show and work with Uptown again after playing Wednesday in *The Addams Family*. An acting student at Chapman University, she recently debuted as Howard/Holly in *Icarus's Mother* by Sam Shepard and is actively involved in the school's sketch Comedy group.

**MADISON JAFFE-RICHTER** (*Ensemble, Dance Captain, u/s Éponine*) is beyond excited to be back performing with Uptown in this incredible show! Recent credits include *Baby* (Lizzie, Citadel Theatre), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ensemble/Dance Captain, Beautiful City Project), *James and the Giant Peach* (Swing, AlphaBet Soup Productions), *A Chorus Line* (Kristine, MadKap Productions), and *The Addams Family* (Ensemble, Dance Captain, Uptown Music Theater). Mom, Dad, and Zo, you're the best! <https://www.madisonjaffe-richter.com/>

**BRIAN JAMES** (*Claquesous*) Performing

in *Les Misérables* is a dream come true for Brian, who wanted to be in the show since he was 15. Most recently seen as Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man* at Metropolis, Brian's other professional credits include Cleveland area shows at Beck Center and Cain Park, to include *Evita*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Parade*, and *Zombie Prom*. Much love to family and friends for their love and support.

**JUSTIN KATIN** (*Joly*) has been seen in numerous roles in the Chicagoland area. His past few credits include, Uptown Music Theater: *Lucas* (Addams Family), *Big Deal Productions: Joseph* (Joseph), *Stevenson High School (PTC): Beast* (Beauty and the Beast), *SpongeBob* (SpongeBob The Musical), and *Jack Kelly* (Newsies). Justin was also a two time all stater in the Illinois All State Theatre Festival Musical, where Justin was a part of the casts of *Cabaret* (2022) and *Shrek* (2023). Justin is going to be a rising sophomore as a BFA in Musical Theatre major at Indiana University this fall, as well as studying Marketing. Justin wants to thank his family, friends, and the entire company for all of their support through this process! Enjoy the show! @justink829

**ALLEN KATZ-MARIANI** (*Feuilly*) is a middle school teacher in Gurnee. He has worked with Uptown Music Theater twice before, appearing in *Seussical* (Mr. Mayor) and *Freckleface Strawberry*. Recent credits include *Deerfield Family Theater's Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth), *Theater D's Don't Dress for Dinner* (Robert) and *Glenview Theater Guild's Oklahoma* (Will Parker). His greatest joy is directing shows for his middle schoolers. This one's for you, dad. You will always be with me on the barricade.

**GRIFFIN KELLY** (*Lesgles*) is an incoming sophomore at the University of Illinois studying Agricultural & Biological Engineering. Griffin is thrilled for the opportunity to work with such an amazing cast and to perform with a company that supports such a great cause.

**MICHAEL KIRBY** (*Ensemble*) is honored to be in *Les Misérables* with Uptown. Past performances include: *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester), *Seussical* (Horton), *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* (Joe), and *Oklahoma!* (Jud). He is currently an Associate Teacher at Washburne Middle School and the Choral Director at Marie Murphy Middle School. Kirby graduated from Roosevelt University; majoring in Vocal Performance and Music Education. Kirby enjoys spending time with family and friends, seeing movies, and playing his opening solo.

# The Cast

**SAMANTHA MACAULEY** (*Ensemble*) is so excited to be making her Uptown debut! This is her 3rd time getting to be a part of *Les Misérables* as it is one of her favorite musicals. Samantha is from Arlington Heights and is currently studying theatre performance at Bradley University where she was previously seen in *Men on Boats* (John Wesely Powell), *Hearts Like Fists* (Lisa), and *The Revolutionists* (Marie Antoinette). She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for such an amazing experience and being such a welcoming and kind group!

**ALLISON ROSE MACKNICK** (*Factory Girl, Swing, Intimacy Captain*) is a Chicago-based actor, performer, and lil stinker. She is tickled pink for her Uptown debut! Previous credits include *Promises, Promises* (Blank Theatre - Jeff nominated), *Ragtime* (Highland Park Players), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Saint Sebastian Players), and various children's theatre productions throughout Chicagoland. All of her love to her family, friends, and especially Anthony and Tula! Tomorrow always comes. Repped by Dream Team Talent. @allierosemack, [allisonrose-macknick.com](http://allisonrose-macknick.com)

**CHARLIE MANN** (*Innkeeper, Combeferre*) is thrilled to have the chance to do this show. Previous credits include *On The Twentieth Century* (Blank Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (Kokandy Productions), and *Blood Brothers* (Theo Ubique). When not performing, he teaches music in Chicago Public Schools. Much love to his spouse Victoria, his cat Soji, and to his mom for always encouraging his dreams.

**ARIELA POLICASTRO** (*Ensemble*) Ariela works as an elementary music teacher in Roselle, IL. Previous roles include *Diana Morales* (A Chorus Line), *Irene Molloy* (Hello Dolly!), *Lucy Harris* (Jekyll and Hyde), and *Shoshanna* (Island Song). She is thankful for the cast and production team of *Les Mis* for making her Uptown Music Theater debut nothing but warm. She would also like to thank her friends, family, and her loving boyfriend Vin for all their support. Enjoy the show!

**DUSTIN ROTHBART** (*Constable, Bamatabois, Jean Prouvaire*) is a Jeff Award nominated actor, producer, and casting director. He is the founding Co-Artistic Director of Blank Theatre Company where he's appeared in *On the Twentieth Century*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Wild Party*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Spring Awakening*. Dustin has performed throughout Chicago for over a decade at theatres such as *Lifeline*, *Red*, *The Beautiful City Project*, *Citadel*, *Madkap*, *Underscore*, *Big Noise*, *JPAC*

and regionally with *Hampstead Stage Company* and *Canterbury Summer Theatre*. Dustin is a graduate of the acting program at *Illinois State University*. [www.DustinRothbart.com](http://www.DustinRothbart.com)  
IG: DustinRothbart

**AARON RUMACK** (*Farmer, Factory Foreman, Brujon, u/s Thénardier*) is proud to be part of this tremendous experience! Regional credits: *Citadel Theater*, *Uptown Music Theater* (Gomez in *The Addams Family*), *Music By the Lake*, *Big Noise Theater* (*Ralph in Butterflies Are Free*). Additional favorite past roles: *Fred/Petruccio* in *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Young Ben* in *Follies*; *Smudge* in *Forever Plaid*; *Trevor Graydon* in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Heartfelt thanks to this talented cast, staff, crew, and the *Muppets Casting Agency*. Love to Shandalla!

**SARAH SAPPERSTEIN** (*Ensemble, u/s Madame Thénardier*) is delighted to make her Uptown debut in this bucket list show. On Sarah's 7th grade trip to New York, her class saw *Les Mis* on Broadway. Her math teacher, who was chaperoning, leaned over during Act 2 and whispered "you know, you could do this..." And so she did. Today, Sarah has been in 100+ Chicago-area theatre, musical theatre, opera, and cabaret productions. For Mrs. Carol Lombardo and every educator who inspires.

**ERICA SILVER** (*Ensemble*) (she/her) *A Little Night Music* (Theo Ubique) *Get Out Alive* (Haven) *The Christmas Schooner* (Beverly Arts Center), *The Prom* (Dominican University), *Ritual* (Reggie's). TV/FILM: *Christmas Caroler Challenge Season 1* (Finalist). Graduate of Chapman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a vocal emphasis. When Erica is not performing, she is discovering new recipes and meals to share with friends and family.

**HANNAH MARY SIMPSON** (*Ensemble, Fight Captain*) is thrilled to be part of this amazing project! Some recent Chicago theater credits include *Chicago Children's Theatre* (*A Year With Frog & Toad*), *Music Theater Works* (*Camelot*), *Midsommer Flight* (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and *Black Ensemble Theater* (*The Healing*). In addition to her performance work, Hannah is also a Shakespeare Coach and Teaching Artist. Reps - *Firestarter Entertainment* (Theatre), *Dream Team Talent* (On Camera). Website: [hannahmarysimpson.com](http://hannahmarysimpson.com)

**KASEY SLIWINSKI** (*Courfeyrac, u/s Enjolras*) is pursuing a BMA in Lyric Theatre at UIUC, studying opera/MT with Nathan Gunn. Favorite roles include *Frank Jr.* in *Catch Me If You Can*, *Older Karl* in *The Christmas Schooner*,



# The Cast and The Orchestra

Prince Eric in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Operettas include the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and the *Savoyaires' Trial by Jury* and *Yeoman of the Guard*. He is thankful to be included in this special production of *Les Misérables*!

**SOPHIE SMEKENS** (*Innkeeper's Wife, u/s Fantine*) is so excited to work on the musical of all musicals with some of the most talented folks in Chicago! Recent show credits: *Anne in A Little Night Music (Brightside)*, *Maria in The Sound of Music (Riverbank)*, *The Music Man (Metropolis)*, *Merrily We Roll Along (Blank)*. So thankful to her friends, family, and educators at The Hartt School for their endless support! To God be the glory, great things He has done. [sophiemekens.com](http://sophiemekens.com)

**LISA SOBELMAN** (*Ensemble*) is a founding member of Uptown. She is thrilled to be performing with this talented cast. Most recently, Lisa performed in Citadel's production of *Baby*. Lisa works as a director & teacher at The Performer's School (3rd, 4th, & 5th graders). She also splits her time as a licensed clinical therapist, a freelance graphic designer and as a private vocal & acting coach. Thank you to her friends and family for their support of her passions, especially mom, J, L, and S; and to the rest of the production staff, who always hold a special place in her heart.

**JIM SPANGLER** (*Wigmaker, Montparnasse, Major Domo*) is thrilled to be doing *Les Mis* at Uptown! Some of his favorite roles include *Man In Chair (The Drowsy Chaperone)*, *Herby (Gypsy)*, *Archibald Craven (The Secret Garden)*, *Pseudolous (A Funny Thing...)*, *Sal (Those The River Keeps)*, and *Malcolm (The Full Monty)*. James would like to thank his spouse Kate and daughter Janine for their constant love and support! You push me to be a better human everyday! I love you!

**LINDSEY MARIE WELLS** (*Ensemble*) is a versatile soprano, actress, and voice teacher. Chicago credits include *Maria in The Sound of Music (Guardian Angels Players)* and *Ragtime (Highland Park Players)*. She recently earned her MM in Vocal Performance from NYU, where she studied & performed numerous opera roles. Lindsey is a certified instructor of Blaylock Vocal Method, as well as a Montessori music teacher. She frequently music directs children shows. Lindsey has sung at Carnegie Hall eight times and counting! Instagram: @lindseymariewells

**KOREY WHITE** (*Laborer, u/s Jean Valjean*) is excited for his first show with Uptown! He was

last seen as William Barfee in *Music On Stage's Spelling Bee*. Other credits include *Ragtime (Metropolis Performing Arts)* *Ragtime*, *Little Mermaid (Music Theatre Works)* *She Loves Me (Blank Theater Company)* *Parade, Spring Awakening (Theatre Nebula)*, *Planted (Rogue Elephant Productions)*, *If Scrooge Was a Brother (eta Creative Arts)*, *Legally Blonde (Fremont Street Theatre Company)*, *Ragtime (St. James Theatre)*, *Company*, *Jesus Christ Superstar (Devonshire Playhouse)*, *Man of Lamancha (Company of Pittsburgh)*, and *Assassins (Wee Productions)*. Korey thanks his family, friends, the amazing and supportive cast and crew of *Les Mis*, and his emotional support Boris.



**JAM ORCHESTRA** is a unique ensemble that strives to present music at the highest quality to a broad spectrum of audience-goers. We aim to perform all works, from classical music to Broadway and film scores, with the utmost musical integrity including original orchestrations and instrumentation, the way they were meant to be heard. Since its inception in 2018, the JAM Orchestra has thrilled audiences with its distinct genre-defying sound, eclectic programs pairing audience favorites with underheard rarities, and virtuosic musicians who love to make music together. IG: @jamorch, [www.jamorchestra.org](http://www.jamorchestra.org)

Music Director/Conductor - **AARON KAPLAN**  
Associate Music Director/Associate Conductor - **KEVIN ZHOU**; Reed 1 (Flute/Alto Flute/Piccolo/Alto Recorder) - **CARLYN LLOYD**; Reed 2 (Oboe/English Horn) - **REED CAWLEY**; Reed 3 (Bb Clarinet/Eb Clarinet/Bass Clarinet/Tenor Recorder) - **KAITLIN PUCCI**; Horn 1 - **LIZ DEITEMYER**; Horn 2 - **EMMA SEPMEIER**; Trumpet - **MIKE LEAVENS**; Trombone - **ROB HACKL-BLUMSTEIN**; Percussion - **DEBBIE KATZ-KNOWLES**; Keyboard 1 - **KEVIN ZHOU**; Keyboard 2 - **DANNY KAPINOS**; Violin - **JACKIE FISHER** (concertmaster), **MAURA BROWN**, **RYAN CAPARELLA**, **RENEE HENLEY**, **CAROLYN VAN DE VELDE**; Viola - **ANTHONY KREMPA**, **JIEYEON SCHLEICHER**, **ELIZABETH SHEPHERD**; Cello - **RHEA DAVIS**, **JULIA WEN**; Bass - **ERIC VON HOLST**



The Associate Director & Choreographer is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

# The Artistic Staff

**JAMIE DAVIDSON** (*Co-Producer*) is the founding President and Artistic Director of Uptown Music Theater. He is a longtime resident of Highland Park. Jamie has performed in and produced many musicals around Chicago for more than three decades. He hopes that you enjoy this incredibly special production of *Les Misérables*, his favorite musical. "A heart full of love" to Jenny, his family, friends, and community.

**LARRY MASON** (*Co-Producer*) is a co-founding Uptown Board member/Secretary who has been performing as an actor, singer, and drummer in the Chicagoland area for over 40 years. When not on stage, Larry is a Goldberg Segalla LLP Partner, an active Makom Solel Lakeside lay leader, and a current member of the University of Illinois Student Affairs Council. Larry's lifelong passion for the theater includes his support of high quality family-friendly educational experiences in a safe, non-discriminatory environment. Larry's heart is always "full of love" for Susie, Samantha, Sarah, Zoe, and Dolly.

**SCOTT SHALLENBARGER** (*Director*) is elated to mark his Uptown Music Theater debut with *Les Misérables*. Chicagoland credits include *Baby, The Musical* (Citadel Theatre); *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Glass Menagerie* (Jeff Award), *The Hot L Baltimore*, *The Children's Crusade*, and *The Road to Mecca* (Raven Theatre); *Burn This*, *Skyscraper*, and *Our Country's Good* (Piven Theatre); *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Jeffrey* (Hubris Theatre). Scott served as Highland Park High School's Director of Theatre Arts for 33 years and has deep gratitude for the support & celebration of the Highland Park Community who embraced arts education with decades of passionate enthusiasm; and, for generations of students who courageously embraced their artistic voices in classes and 100+ productions. Last, a shout-out to the three men who make Scott's "Heart Full of Love:" Brad, Riley, and Parker.

**AARON KAPLAN** (*Musical Director & Conductor*) enjoys a multifaceted musical career as a conductor, Jeff-nominated musical director, cellist, music educator, and arranger. He earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Donald Schleicher. Current positions include Orchestra Director at Glenbrook North & Glenbrook South High Schools, JAM Orchestra (Artistic Director/Conductor), Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (Philharmonia Conductor) and co-director, Chicago Suzuki Institute. He has been the music director/conductor for over 90 theatrical productions, the majority with complete orchestration. Thanks to Scott, Stacey, Zak, Cindy, this wonderful cast, Kevin Zhou,

and the phenomenal orchestra for their passion and musicianship. Thank you for supporting live theater, live music, and the arts in the community!

**STACEY FLASTER** (*Associate Director & Choreographer*) directed the critically acclaimed *Ragtime* for Music Theater Works in 2021. Directing Credits: *Cabaret*, *Secret Garden*, *Little Mermaid* (Music Theater Works), *Hair & Ragtime* (Broadway World Award, Best Director & Best Musical-Big Noise Theatre), *A Class Act* (Jeff Award, Best Musical-Porchlight Theatre). Other credits: *Cats* (Jeff Nomination-Theatre at the Center), *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Route 66* (Paramount Theatre). Choreography Credits: *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (Jeff Nomination, Best Choreography-Theatre at the Center), *Miss Saigon* (Drury Lane Oakbrook), *Willy Wonka* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Marriott Theatre), *Master Harold...and the Boys* (Steppenwolf Theatre). Film: *The Dilemma*, directed by Ron Howard. Co-owner of the Performer's School, Inc. [www.Stacey-Flaster.com](http://www.Stacey-Flaster.com)

**ZAK JACOBS** (*Assistant Director & Company Manager*) is a graduate of Highland Park High School with a BFA in dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Zak worked as a Company Manager in New York City for 8 years. Broadway credits include *Rock of Ages*, *Head Over Heels*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Bandstand*, *King Charles III & The Book of Mormon*. Choreography credits include *How to Succeed in Business...*, *Cabaret*, *Cats & Rocky Horror Picture Show*. All my love to Mom, Dad, Ali & Beth.

**KEVIN ZHOU** (*Associate Music Director and Associate Conductor*) is so thankful to be involved in this amazing production of *Les Mis*. Previous Chicago Shows include *The Addams Family*, *Promises, Promises*, *Music Man in Concert*, *Ragtime in Concert*, and *On The Twentieth Century*. He recently graduated from U of I May 2023. Also currently involved in a Video Game Jazz Band. He loves cooking and learning new instruments during his time off. @kevp0.zhou

**MICHAEL CLACK** (*Scenic Designer & Technical Director*) is honored to be making his Tech Director / Scenic Design debut for Uptown Music Theater of Highland Park. Favorite past designs include *Metamorphoses*, at Brookhaven College, and *Mamma Mia*, Deerfield High School. Michael enjoys being outside when not in a theatre. Thanks to my family for allowing me the opportunity to work on such an important production.

**CHRIS MORGAN** (*Stage Manager*), a founding Uptown board member, is thrilled to return after

# The Artistic Staff

serving as its Technical Director for The Addams Family. He would like to thank everyone for creating a very special Les Mis production.

**ADAM SHERMAN** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is an actor, director, and high school theatre teacher and is thrilled to be making his Uptown debut with these amazing artists!

**CINDY MOON** (*Costume Designer*) (she/her) is a Chicago-based freelance costume designer, originally from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Her recent Chicago area design work includes *The Mad Ones*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *She Loves Me* (Blank Theatre Company); *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Young People's Theatre of Chicago); *A Little Night Music*, *The ThreePenny Opera* (Theo Ubique). She has held numerous positions at Steppenwolf, as well as receiving multiple Jeff Award nominations for her design work. Education: MFA in Costume Design and Technology, Virginia Tech. Proud Member USA829. More of her work can be seen at [www.cindymooncostume.com](http://www.cindymooncostume.com)

**JOEL ZISHUK** (*Lighting Designer*) is a Chicago based Lighting and Projection Designer. He currently works as the Resident Lighting Designer at the Madison Street Theater in Oak Park, Illinois. Other professional credits include *Beehive: The 60's Musical* (Lighting, Cumberland County Playhouse), *Silent Sky* (Lighting, Citadel Theatre), *FORTS! 2023* (Lighting, filament & Writer's Theatre), *How I Learned What I Learned* (Projections, Gablestage), *Rubenology* (Projections, GableStage), *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (Lighting, Florida REP), *Lobby Hero* (Lighting & Projection, Florida REP), and *The Addams Family* (Lighting, Uptown Music Theater). He received his BFA in Theatre - Design and Technology from the University of Central Florida. [www.JoelZishuk.com](http://www.JoelZishuk.com)

**MICHAEL PATRICK** (*Sound Designer*) is a Jeff-nominated sound designer and is thrilled to be working with Uptown. He is the president of Concert Sound Systems, a Chicago-based audio-visual company.

**KATIE NOVAK** (*Props Designer*) is excited to be making her debut at Uptown as the Props Designer/Manager. Katie is a graduate of Illinois State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Theatre Production Design & Technology. When she is not perfecting her latte art as a barista, Katie's recent theatrical credits include *Props Artisan* for the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; *Props Designer* for Director's Haven 7 (Haven Chicago); *Carpenter* for Illinois (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Props Designer* for *The Mousetrap* (Citadel Theatre);

*Carpenter* for 2021-2022 and *Prop Shop Supervisor* for 2023 seasons of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Instagram: @ktnovakdesign Website: [katienovakdesign.com](http://katienovakdesign.com)

**JESSI HERSMAN** (*Fight & Intimacy Director*) (she/her) is a Chicagoland native and resident who proudly serves as a teaching artist, director and acting coach for high schools, community theatres and theatres across the northern/northwest suburbs. She joins the production team to support *Intimacy* and *Fight* in the production, and is honored to work with such a talented team of artists, on and off stage. She would like to thank Uptown Music Theater for the opportunity to share and create with them this summer.

**LARK CREATIVE GROUP** (*Marketing, Media Relations, Print & Social Media Strategy & Graphic Design*) founded in 2024, comprises Whitney Langas, Bianca Rose and Holly Weis. Specializing in Marketing, Media Relations, and Social Media for theatrical endeavors, the team brings a wealth of expertise to promote and enhance productions. With a passion for storytelling and a commitment to creative excellence, Lark Creative Group collaborates closely with theater companies to elevate their visibility and engagement in the arts community. [www.larkcreativegroup.com](http://www.larkcreativegroup.com)

**SARAH CLEMENT** (*Social Media Manager*) is excited to be rejoining the Uptown Team as social media manager! She is a 2022 graduate from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a BFA in Acting and spends her time as a teaching artist with Skyline Children's Theater.

**ANNE ZAVELL** and **RYAN ELLIOTT** (*House Managers*), Uptown board members, are happy to be "Master(s) of the House" for Les Mis.

**ROSA MACHABANSKI** (*Concessions Manager*), Uptown board member, is excited to be part of the Les Mis team, with "a heart full of love."

Assistant Tech Director.....Sydney Berk  
Backstage Crew.....Eva Alvarez, Katherine Field, Oliver Fischer-Rohde, Marcus Gahm, Drew Gisby, Hayden Meyers, Charlie Nugent, Jacob Rausa, Danielle Piccolomini, Alice Poznyak, Rio Shinkarev, Laurel Zeller  
Costume Support..... Mallory Stiles  
Lighting..... Joel Zishuk, Terry Schneider Mikos, Josh Dubrow  
Props Support..... Abbie Horwitz  
Sound.....Noah Hersh, Amy Glazer, Marcus Gahm  
Spot Operators..... Juniper Behun, Natalie Elizaroff, Nolan Housholder

# The Donors



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## Benefitting the Highland Park Shooting Recovery Fund



A portion of the proceeds of this production will be donated to the Highland Park Community Foundation's Highland Park Shooting Recovery Fund. Please consider donating today.

## Special Thanks

Township High School District 113, Park District of Highland Park, City of Highland Park, Deerfield Fine Arts Commission, Josselyn Center Matthew Bordoshuk, Michael Brown, Pam Holt, Danny Kapinos, Debbie Katz-Knowles, Ron Velleur, Aaron Zimmerman, Makom Solel Lakeside, Deerfield High School Music Department, College of DuPage Theatre, and the High School crews from Deerfield, Highland Park, and Niles North.

## Board of Directors

Jamie Davidson (President), Larry Mason (Secretary), Beth Grosky (Vice-President), Members: Joanne Bernstein, Janet Borden, Matt Cannon, Ryan Elliott, Debra Goldman, Aaron Kaplan, Chris Morgan, Rosa Machabanski, Lisa Pogofsky Sobelman, Anne Zavell.



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.