

# A CHRISTMAS CAROLE PETERSEN

WRITTEN BY TOD PETERSEN AND PETER ROTHSTEIN
DIRECTED BY PETER ROTHSTEIN
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DIRECTION BY DENISE PROSEK

**NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 30, 2017 • RITZ THEATER** 



THEATER MUSICALLY

Theater Latté Da presents

# A CHRISTMAS CAROLE PETERSEN

Book by **Tod Petersen and Peter Rothstein**Directed by **Peter Rothstein\*\***Musical Arrangements and Direction by **Denise Prosek**<sup>†</sup>

#### **FEATURING**

Jody Briskey\*, Ryan Lee, Tod Petersen\*, and Dominique Wooten

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors

\*\*Member of SDC, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union themselves the stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union the stage of the stag

A CHRISTMAS CAROLE PETERSEN will be performed with one intermission

Opening Night: Saturday, December 2, 2017

ASL Interpreted and Audio Described Performance: Thursday, December 14, 2017

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. As a courtesy to the performers and other patrons, please check to see that all cell phones, pagers, watches and other noise-making devices are turned off.

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# FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tod Petersen and I have been friends for nearly 20 years and we've spent much of that time making each other laugh. I directed Tod in several projects before I became aware of his skills as a storyteller. It was on a weekend with friends at my parents' cabin in Northern Minnesota. There were about 25 of us, and we decided to have a talent contest on Saturday night. It was a totally casual affair, meant for campy fun. Tod wove together a story and a song where he played himself as an adult, a childhood version of himself, and his mother Carole. He brought the house (or in this case cabin) down. We begged him to reprise his performance the next morning, and again that afternoon. No one seemed to get enough of it, especially my mother. There was pure joy in Tod's mini-musical, but also a quiet melancholy, and hints at something profound.

Tod and I decided to create a show together and called it *Oh S#!%, I'm Turning into My Mother*. We crafted Tod's stories, primarily about his mother Carole, and combined those stories with a wide variety of songs about motherhood. While Tod's anecdotes were filled with autobiographical detail, the songs addressed motherhood from many angles and brought a diversity of voices to the theatrical event. We aspired to be both singular and universal. Oh S#!%, I'm Turning into My Mother was a hit. We produced it on and off for several years performing in theaters, coffee shops, women's retreats, and a cabaret theater in New York City. We decided to create another show together and called it *A Christmas Carole Petersen*, in honor of Tod's mom, and her love of all things Christmas.

Once again Tod and I looked to his mother and his own coming of age for inspiration. We also looked to Charles Dickens. In *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge's journey goes from a place of selfishness and misery to a place of generosity and joy. In order to liberate himself, Scrooge must look to his past with a *discerning* eye, and observe the current world around him with a *compassionate* eye. Tod and I wanted our story to echo that journey. As theater-makers we must visit our collective past with discernment and observe the world



in which we live with compassion. We must first listen before we can speak, or sing, in response.

A Christmas Carole Petersen premiered in 2000 and ran in the Twin Cities each December for nine years. After an eight-year hiatus Carole is back, and whether it's like visiting an old friend or meeting for the first time, we're glad you're here. Welcome to the Petersen's.

Peter Rothstein
Founding Artistic Director
Theater Latté Da

Through both our mission and the realization of that mission, Theater Latté Da stands out as a bold innovator, investing in the art of musical theater, moving it forward, and shepherding it to new frontiers for Minnesota audiences and beyond. However, we truly cannot do it without you. Please consider a gift to Theater Latté Da. Visit latteda.org/give.

One of my favorite lines in A Christmas Carole Petersen comes toward the end of the show when I'm being all Scroogy, arguing with my sweet Christmas-loving mother, asking her why we have to go through this annoying holiday rigmarole once again and she says, simply, "Because it brings me joy."

My mother Carole just loves the show. She says it has a message. Plus she likes her name up in lights. But, I do think she's right. Our show does have a message. To me, the message is that no matter how much this challenging time of year might bug some of us (and it most certainly bugs me, let me count the ways) and no matter how lonely or alienated or depressed we might feel, it is not impossible to find a little joy amidst the noise and stress. Maybe it's a funny family story, a childhood memory, a favorite song. Maybe it's a nummy meal, a noggy drink, a walk in the snow, a snuggle on the couch. But joy is available. Always. To all of us. Even my fellow Scrooges.

So thank you, Mom. You win. Once again. (Bah humbug.)



**Tod Petersen** 

Jello Pudding Chocolate Cheesecake Charlotter Cherry Desser Lowestrack- 4250 3/ex c. erusted gr. cracker crumbs muit took +stir over 11 boil 2T. butter, melted 1 pkg. (3 74 m) Choc. gudding) Remove heat - Coverwith wax pay. 3 pkg (sa) Creamchoes & softened - Best und. / flotty-best in 3 pkg (sa) Creamchoes & yolks. vanille, cast + pordding 3/4 C. Sugar 1c.milk 14t. salt / sourceem - Best whites / fold in pushing outland Pour over 3 cgg whites - te. Sourceem - pushing outland Pour over drained. 3 egg yolks

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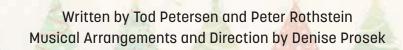
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#### THE CAST

Carolette	Jody Briskey*
Carolette	Ryan Lee
Himself	Tod Petersen*
Carolette	Dominique Wooten

#### THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Peter Rot <mark>hstei</mark> n**
Music Director and Music Arrangements	Denise Prosek†
Scenic Designer	Michael Hoover
Lighting Designer	Mary Shabatura
Costume Designer	Rich Hamson
Sound Designer & Engineer	Kevin Sp <mark>ri</mark> nger
Sub Audio Engineer	Matt Bombich
Properties Master	Abbee Warmboe
Stage Manager	Jam <mark>i</mark> e J. Kranz*
Assistant Stage Manager	April Harding
Assistant Master Electrician and	40 4
Lighting Programmer Micayl	a Thebault-Spieker
Technical Director	Bethany Reinfeld
Master Electrician	Ray Steveson
Wardrobe Maintenance	Tiffany Clem
Electricians	Brent Anderson, sell, Katie Deutsch,
	lum, Megan Winter

Carpenters ...... Sean McQuiston, Tyler Waters

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors

\*\*Member of SDC, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union

> <sup>†</sup>Member of The Twin Cities Musicians Union, American Federation of Musicians

# CAROLE'S CAROLS

**Musical Arrangements by Denise Prosek** 

#### **ACT I**

#### "It's Time for Christmas"

Words by Peter Rothstein and Music by Denise Prosek

#### "My Christmas Love (For You)"

Written by Michelle Brouman and Janis Cercone Used by Permission of Musicways Inc.

#### "Mele Kalikmaka"

#### Written by R. ALEX ANDERSON

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#### "Christmas Island"

#### Words and Music by Lyle L. Moraine

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#### "Christmas Vacation"

Music and Lyrics by Tod Petersen

#### "Feliz Navidad"

Music and Lyrics by Jose Feliciano
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#### "Please, Come Home for Christmas"

#### Written by Charles Brown, Jr. and Gene C. Redd

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#### "River"

#### Written by Joni Mitchell

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## "Caroling through the Neighborhood"

Traditional

#### **ACT II**

#### "Ikh Bin a Kleyner Dreydl"

Written and Composed by Mikhl Gelbart

#### "I'll Be Home for Christmas"

By Walter Kent, Kim Hannon & Buck Ram Gannon & Kent (ASCAP), Piedmont Music Co. (ASCAP)

#### "Our First Christmas"

Lyrics by Larry Johnson and Music by Cindy O'Connor Used with permission of SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

#### "My Christmas Card To You"

Written by Tony Romeo

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#### "Christmas Eve"

#### Written by Julie Gold

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#### "It's Time for Christmas Reprise"

Words by Peter Rothstein and Music by Denise Prosek

#### "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree"

Music and lyrics by Johnny Marks

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# THE COMPANY



#### **JODY BRISKEY**

(CAROLETTE) was last seen in Latté Da's 2017 Next Festival as Rona in Five Points. Past TLD favorites: Company (Joanne), Gypsy

(Mama Rose), *Parade* (Mrs. Phagan). She's enjoyed working for many local theatres, favorites include: *Beyond the Rainbow* (Garland) at History Theatre honored with 2012 Ivey Award, *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn) at Old Log, *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeney) Minnetonka Theatre, *Miracle Worker* (Mrs. Keller) Torch Theatre. Jody has laughed, cried and loved with Tod as a Carolette many times over and it is with a happy heart she's been gifted with the chance to experience this joyful show once again. Hug your family! Merry Christmas!



#### RYAN LEE (CAROLETTE)

is thrilled to be returning to Theater Latté Da for his second year as a Carolette! This year, Ryan has been fortunate to be on stage

and tell stories with some wonderful theaters including Theatre Elision (Ghost Quartet), Uprising Theatre (These Shining Lives), 11/11 Theatre (Enter the Narrator) and DalekoArts (The Rink). Other favorite productions include Woody Guthrie's American Song, Arsenic & Old Lace, 1940's Radio Hour, Lost in Yonkers and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Ryan is also a songwriter & musician, has released 5 albums of original music and toured nationally. Happy Holidays to all!



#### **TOD PETERSEN (HIMSELF)**

has played in Theater Latté Da's productions of Oh, \$#!%, I'm Turning Into My Mother, A Christmas Carole Petersen, A Man of

No Importance, King of Hearts, Parade, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Our Town and Gypsy. He's also played at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, the Children's Theatre Company, the Illusion Theater, the History Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre, Artistry at Bloomington Civic, Minnetonka Theatre, Interact Center for the Performing Arts and the Minnesota

Fringe Festival. Tod is a teacher, writer and director and has taught music and theater to kids in Minnesota, Thailand, and Honduras.



#### DOMINIQUE WOOTEN

(CAROLETTE), Tenor (Theater Latté Da, Good Arts Collective, Moving Company, Bloomington Civic Theater, MNOP, Mill

City Summer Opera) is excited to be back on the Latté Da stage at the Ritz Theater. Reprising his role in *A Christmas Carole Petersen* with his good friends has been a total dream come true. Dom hopes you and your family have a great holiday season filled with love and joy.

#### The Creative Team



#### **PETER ROTHSTEIN**

(DIRECTOR) has directed 61 mainstage productions for Theater Latté Da, including 9 world premieres. Other recent collaborations include

the Guthrie Theater, the Children's Theater Company, Minnesota Opera, the Illusion Theater, Ten Thousand Things and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater. He is the creator of All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 and Steerage Song-a docu-musical created in collaboration with Dan Chouinard. Peter was named the 2015 Artist of the Year by the Star Tribune, Theater Artist of the Year by Lavender, and the Best Director by City Pages. He has received seven Ivey Awards and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. He holds a B. A. in Music and Theater from St. John's University and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Peter-Rothstein.com



#### **DENISE PROSEK**

(RESIDENT MUSIC DIRECTOR)
has worked extensively as
a music director, pianist,
and arranger in the Twin
Cities for the past twenty

years, including forty mainstage productions

for Theater Latté Da. She has also music directed for the Children's Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Hennepin Theatre Trust, and the Ivey Awards, among others. Denise holds a Bachelor of Music from St. Olaf College. She was named a Playwrights' Center McKnight Theater Artist Fellow in 2013–2014, Outstanding Musical Director in 2006 and 2008 from *Star Tribune*, Best Music Director in 2010 from *Lavender*, and *Lavender* Theater Artist of the Year in 2012.



#### RICH HAMSON

(COSTUME DESIGNER)
Rich has designed 10
previous productions for
Theater Latté Da, including
the Ivy awarded productions

of *La Boheme*, *Spring Awakening* and *Cabaret*. He is the resident designer for Chanhassen Dinner Theatre where his work can be seen in their current production of *Sister Act*. He has designed for the Guthrie Theater, the Ordway, the Children's Theatre Company, the Minnesota Opera, the History Theatre, national tours and many more regional, college, and high school theatre companies. He was selected by the *Star Tribune* as one of nine outstanding theatre artists in 2003 and was *Lavender* Magazine's Artist of the year in 2014. Recently returning to the stage as an actor, *Lavender* named him best Lead Actor in a musical for the 2015 season.



#### MICHAEL HOOVER

(SCENIC DESIGNER) has previously designed sets for Theater Latté Da's Man of La Mancha, Ragtime, Gypsy, Beautiful Thing, Song of

Extinction, Floyd Collins, La Boheme, Sunday in the Park with George, A Man of No Importance, A Christmas Carole Petersen, Burning Patience and Wings. Michael also designs sets for several other local theaters, including the Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Torch Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Girl Friday Productions, Yellow Tree and the Minnesota Jewish Theater. In addition to his free-lance career as a scenic designer, Michael is on staff at the Guthrie Theater, where he supervises the Scenic Art department.



#### MARY SHABATURA

(LIGHTING DESIGNER) is thrilled to be joining the team for a *Christmas Carole Petersen*! Based out of the Twin Cities, she

is resident lighting designer for Dark and Stormy Productions, and has designed all their productions, including *The Receptionist, The Hothouse, Sunshine* and *And So It Goes.*Shabatura has previously designed at Theater Latté Da (*Gypsy, Ragtime*), Shapeshift Dance, Artistry (*Talley's Folly*), The Moving Company (*For Sale*), The Guthrie/B.F.A. Program at the Dowling Studio (*Peter Piper/The Hidden People*) has served as assistant lighting designer at the Guthrie (*Cocoanuts*), and has worked with The Santa Fe Opera, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Penumbra Theater, among others.



#### **KEVIN SPRINGER**

(SOUND DESIGNER) is a theater sound designer and engineer born and raised in Litchfield, Minnesota. Favorite projects include

the sound design for *Dutchman and The Owl Answers* at Penumbra Theatre and a solo audio performance created from field recordings and oral histories at the former State Hospital in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Kevin has worked previously with Theater Latté Da on *Man of La Mancha* and last year's production of *A Christmas Carole Petersen*. Upcoming work includes *This Bitter Earth* at Penumbra Theatre.



#### **ABBEE WARMBOE**

(PROPERTIES MASTER) is happy to be joining Latté Da for her second full season. Previous credits include *Man of* 

La Mancha, Six Degrees of Separation, Peter and the Starcatcher, Ragtime, Gypsy. Other credits include; Mixed Blood Theatre: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, Vietgone, Safe at Home, Orange, Barbeque; Interact: The Feast of Fools; Artistry: The Music Man; Ten Thousand Things Theatre: Electra, Intimate Apparel; Yellow Tree Theatre: A Gone Fishin' Christmas, String; Ordway Center: Jesus Christ Superstar;

Guthrie Theatre: Incurable: A Fool's Tale; Girl Friday Productions: Idiot's Delight; History Theatre: The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin, Highwaymen, Orphan Train; Theatre Mu: Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery; Flower Drum Song; Trademark Theatre: The Boy and Robin Hood.



JAMIE J. KRANZ (STAGE MANAGER) is excited to be working with Theater Latté Da. Past stage management credits include: *Watch on the Rhine* (Guthrie Theatre),

As You Like It, Treasure Island, Hamlet, and Antony & Cleopatra (Utah Shakespeare Festival), Seedfolks, Pinocchio, 20,000 Leagues under the Sea (Children's Theatre Company), DJ Latinidad's Latin Dance Party, Pussy Valley (Mixed Blood), Flower Drum Song, A Raisin in the Sun, Romeo & Juliet, Murder for Two, The Snow Queen, The Color Purple (Park

Square Theatre). Kranz received her M.F.A from Columbia University and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.



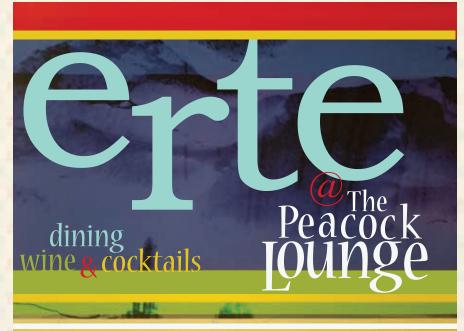
# APRIL HARDING (ASSISTANT STAGE

MANAGER) is tickled to be back for another year of Carole's holiday cheer. Previously with Theater

Latté Da: Peter and the Starcatcher, Gypsy, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods. Other credits include Utah Shakespeare Festival, Park Square Theatre, Children's Theater Company, Loudmouth Collective, Carlyle Brown & Company, DalekoArts.

#### **Special Thanks**

Shelly Zordich



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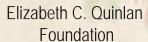






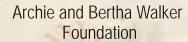


















Theater Latté Da's mission is to create new connections between story, music, artist, and audience by exploring and expanding the art of musical theater. Guided by our values that our work be bold and collaborative, and that we act with integrity and gratitude both on and off the stage. By illuminating the unseen, giving voice to the unheard, and empathizing with the unknown, Theater Latté Da strives to open eyes, ears, and hearts.

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Eric Brook in honor of Cat Brindisi &

Brian Bressler

Mary Bussman

Cindy Carpenter and Gregg Roberts Matthew Cerar John Cheleen Tomie and Jim Conaway Julie Corty Annie Doughty and Jim Detmar Amanda Devine
Kathy Dodge and Steve Downing
Bridget Drummond Denisea Elsola Sharon Engel Don Feeney Tim Felegy

Patricia Gaarder Frieda Gardner and Susan Oppenheim Walter Gegner Jeff and Gail Gibbs, in memory of Jean Rothstein Sue Gilsdorf Trey Gladney Paul and Kate Habegger Craig Harris and Candy Kuehn Karie Heffernan Laura Heglund Jelan and James Heidelberg Cynthia Heneage Wilbur Hill George Ferguson Alexandra Fetissoff Kathleen Humphries Sara and Karl Fiegenschuh Hugh Huston

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#### Places (\$50-\$99) continued

Nadine Mayer
Molly McShane
Laurie and Dave Mech
Sonja Merrild
Kristin Midelfort
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Daniel Molliek
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Elaine Savick
Jill Schafer
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Alicia Schwarz
David Sebberson and Meg Lewis
Barbara Shelton
Anthony Sofie
James and Michael Stolz
Ron Strychar
Carol Taylor
Jean Taylor
Lindsay Thompson

Anna Tift
Corliss Weeks
Carl Wengelewski
Karyn Wrenshall
Maryann Wycoff
Beth Yokom
David Young and Edward Williams, Jr.
Linden Zakula
Josh Zenner
Maggie Zoncki

Laura E Rathe Doris Rausch

Jeanne Schleh

Tiffanie Shankey

Courtney Sheffield

Margaret Shreves

Kayley Smothers Anne Fisher

Eryn Tvete

Paul and Suzanne Reyburn

Steven Rosenberg Elaine Gaston and Mark Scannell

#### ????????????? (\$49 and under)

Anonymous Mary Adair and Gerald Jorgenson Lorie Afremov Carole Anderson Steven Ask Catherine Bendel and Joseph Nunez Marissa Blaknik Sarah Collins Geoffrey Conklin Nancy Connor Stewart Corn Tanner Curl Brandon Dahl Scott Dibble Richard Levva Robert Droddy Brad C. Eggen Joel Gotz

Patricia Haarman Adriane Heflin Richard Henke Kristin Jansson Kristi Iereska Lila Kiely Gayle Knutson Mary Kokernot Laura Kulm John Kulstad Allison La Pointe Linda Nordlund Langeness Kate and Greg Lawson Shelly Leshovsky Korrin Lohmann E Marty Malone Ricky McAllister

Ruthie McGrath
A Moeller
Katharine Mohana
LuAnn Monahan
Marysue Moses
Sallie Neall
Christine Nelson
Zachary Nelson-Winters
James Nepp
Dan Norman
Elizabeth O'Mara
Oosterhuis
Ted Page
Katharine Pennell
Sandra, Andrew, and Rick Penning
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Charlene Washburn in memory of Gay Prosek
Pennell Wendy Weckwerth
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NEXT 20/20 is an initiative to cultivate 20 new musicals, or plays with music, over a five-year period. This initiative comes from the belief that it is the responsibility of the regional theater to not only speak to audiences today, but to contribute to the dramatic canon of tomorrow. With NEXT 20/20, Theater Latté Da will invest in the future of the great American Musical and its playwrights, composers, and lyricist through our annual NEXT Festival and world premieres. The 20th Anniversary season contains the company's most ambitious world premiere to date, Five Points by Harrison David Rivers, Ethan Pakchar, and Douglas Lyons, directed by Peter Rothstein.

Please consider supporting new work through giving to NEXT 20/20 in addition to your annual fund gift. Thank you to the following individuals and organizations or institutions for their commitment to new work through supporting NEXT 20/20.

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Please contact Jaden Hansen at jaden@latteda.org to find out how you can play a vital role in the future of the American Musical Theater.

Funders are listed for the past 365 days as of October 15, 2017. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions. For corrections, please contact Jaden Hansen, Development Manager, at 651.204.6852 or jaden@latteda.org.



PHOTO: MARTÍN SOLÁ AND MEGHAN KREIDLER IN MAN OF LA MANCHA. PHOTO BY ALLEN WEEKS.

Founded in 1998 by Peter Rothstein and Denise Prosek, Theater Latté Da is in its 20th year of combining music and story to illuminate the depth and breadth of the human experience.

Peter and Denise began their successful collaboration in 1994 by privately producing five original cabarets to showcase Twin Cities talent. They discovered that by placing equal emphasis on music and storytelling, they could weave tapestries of engaging, challenging and often surprising narratives that resonated with people on many levels. Theater Latté Da officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1998 and to this day remains committed to a rigorous experimentation with music and story that expands the art form and speaks to a contemporary audience, challenging us to think deeply about the world in which we live.

In 1998, Theater Latté Da began performing at the intimate 120-seat Loring Playhouse. By 2007, Theater Latté Da Productions were continually playing to sold-out houses. At this time, they began searching for spaces with different performance configurations to meet the unique needs of their productions. Since 2007, Theater Latté Da has produced shows at the Guthrie Theater, Ordway, Pantages Theatre, Southern Theater, History Theatre, Fitzgerald Theater, The University of Minnesota, The Lab Theater, and MacPhail Center for Music. In 2016 Theater Latté Da became proud owner of the Ritz Theater in Northeast Minneapolis.

The company is becoming a national leader in the art of musical theater, having produced 70 mainstage productions—including 10 world premieres, 10 area premieres, and dozens of productions celebrated for their bold re-imagination.

## **Our Mission**

Theater Latté Da seeks to create new connections between story, music, artist, and audience by exploring and expanding the art of musical theater.

## **Our Values**

We believe in work that is bold and collaborative; we act with integrity and gratitude.

**BOLD** We make bold choices in support of our mission and vision, both on and off stage. By illuminating the unseen, giving voice to the unheard, and empathizing with the unknown, we open eyes, ears and hearts.

**COLLABORATIVE** We believe musical theater to be the most collaborative of art forms, incorporating music, drama, poetry, dance and design. We are inspired and strengthened through inclusive partnerships with artists, organizations and our diverse community, and embody a collaborative spirit in all we do.

INTEGRITY We hold ourselves to the highest standards of artistic and fiscal integrity. We are committed to honesty, equality and transparency in all aspects of our administration and art.

**GRATITUDE** We are grateful for our artists, audiences, donors, board and staff. We recognize that each individual plays an important role in this organization's success, and we actively seek out opportunities to acknowledge each person's contribution.

# THEATER LATTÉ DA

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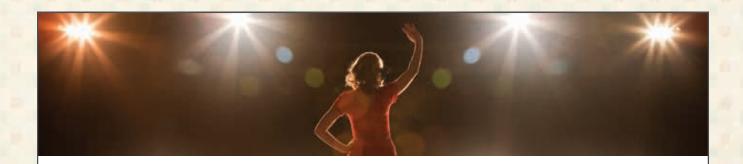
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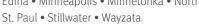


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Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Directed by Peter Rothstein

Music Direction by Jason Hansen

FEB. 7 - MAR. 18 | TICKETS ON SALE JAN. 2